Oil companies give consumers break, reduce prices

Story on PAGE A2

Plot to bomb Edsa overpass uncovered

ABU SAYYAF bandits planned to blow up a major portion of the Edsa overpass as part of a devastating symbolic attack on economic, religious and government targets in Metro Manila, the Associated Press reported yesterday.

Quoting a ranking military official who spoke on condition of anonymity, the AP reported that the attack was to be

PLOT/A17

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Unexploded bomb found in LRT station**
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Tuesday, November 19, 2002 ★ 52 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 344 P15
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Meralco: Refund may only be ₱8B

Joker: It's time to give firm mega-franchise

MERALCO: Thou Shall not STEAL! -POWER

GIVE back our money, a demonstrator tells Meralco. JOAN BONDOC

Meralco stock takes beating on report of ₱28-B refund

By Doris C. Dumlao

INVESTORS yesterday dumped Meralco shares, its price slumping 40 percent to an eight-year low at the Philippine Stock Exchange, after the Supreme Court ordered the power firm to give its overbilled customers hefty refunds.

The court did not specify an amount. Meralco, which had a market capitalization of P14.7 billion as of Friday, earlier said the ruling could cost the company as much as P28 billion.

After the sell-off yesterday, however, Meralco president Jesus Francisco said the amount could only be P8 billion. *(See banner story on Page A1)*

Meralco B, which is open to both local and foreign investors, was the most actively traded and the most battered stock in Monday's trading. It dived P6.60 to close at P9.90.

The sell-off triggered a price freeze when the stock fell by as much as 40 percent in late morning trading. A price freeze is automatically imposed by the bourse if a stock's price either rises 50 percent or falls 40 percent in a single session.

Meralco A, on the other hand, shed P5.30, or 39 percent, to close at P8.20. About P110 million worth of Meralco A and B shares changed hands, accounting for a third of all transactions. Both stocks are now at their lowest price levels since the unification of the country's stock exchanges in 1994.

Weighed down by the losses incurred by Meralco, the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 24.23 points, or 2.3 percent, at 1,034.48.

"I hope the government can do something about this problem because it's tearing apart the stock market," said veteran stockbroker Irving Ackerman. "If Meralco goes under, this economy will collapse. The economy will look bad. This country will look bad. Everything Filipino will look bad."

The government said Monday it was

MERALCO STOCK/A18

By Ronnel Domingo
and Rocky Nazareno

MANILA Electric Co. yesterday tried to pull the plug on "speculative" computations of the Supreme Court-ordered rate refund, saying the figure of P28.15 billion was not yet official.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco told reporters that, depending on how one interpreted Friday's landmark Supreme Court ruling, the total refund might amount to only P8 billion.

"Until the decision is executory, it is too speculative to come up with (an amount of refund or a length of time that this should be returned to the customers)," Francisco said.

In Congress, however, the debate had shifted from the amount Meralco owed to whether its application for a so-called mega-franchise should be approved or not. Sen. Joker Arroyo said "it has become all the more imperative" that Senate grant the consolidation of the company's 50 franchises in Luzon, because without the franchise there would be no firm to pay the refund.

But Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen asked the House to recall its earlier approval on third reading of the grant, saying the power distributor may be headed for bankruptcy.

In the Meralco press briefing, Francisco noted that the high court's 21-page decision did not mention the total amount due. But he emphasized that if the ruling became executory, "what has to be returned would be returned."

The estimate of P28.15 billion, however, was provided by Meralco itself. In its belated motion dated Nov. 7, Meralco warned the high court that the total refund may amount to "an unimaginable P28.15 billion" and thus an adverse ruling may lead to its bankruptcy and the economy's collapse.

But yesterday, Francisco said the total might only amount to some P8 billion.

He said the SC ruled that income tax must not be included as part of operating expenses, contrary to Meralco's practice.

"If this is allowed as it had been in the past, our return on rate base (the industry's measure of profitability) would fall below the 12 percent (maximum allowed by law)," he said. "But if it is not allowed, our RORB would exceed that."

In that case, Meralco's RORB

MERALCO: REFUND/A18

A TIME to grieve. At a quarter past eight in the morning, mourners toss roses into the crash site of Flight 585—in tribute to the 19 people who died only a kilometer away from the breakwater. ERIK ARAZAS

Moving Mass at Manila Bay for 19 victims of Flight 585

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Norman Bordadora

A WEEK to the day the ill-fated Fokker 27 crashed into Manila Bay, the Coast Guard led relatives of the victims and some of the rescuers in a moving Mass at sea.

A Coast Guard vessel, BRP Edsa II, brought them, together with officials of Laoag International Airlines, Navy officers and Australian Embassy representatives, to the crash site, about a kilometer from the breakwater of the Baclaran reclamation site.

"No one in this gathering can claim that we expected this thing to happen," Coast Guard chaplain Fr. Edmund Desierto said in his homily. "Not even (the victims) themselves realized that that day would be their last and that Flight 585 would not bring them to Laoag but to Heaven. It is a sad event that hurt deeply and . . . changed our lives totally."

After the Mass, a helicopter flew by, showering white rose petals on the congregation. Those on the ship lighted candles and tossed red and white roses into the sea, in remembrance of the 19 people who died in the accident.

But while prayers and flowers were offered for the dead, peace for many relatives was still elusive.

Even officials of LaoagAir were crying foul, saying they were being persecuted by media and everyone else.

"*Bugbog na bugbog na kami sa inyo* (You have beaten us black and blue). It is unfair to go to conclusions without waiting for the investigation's results," said airline president Jose Miranda.

He said he would not believe even Flight 585 Capt. Bernie Crisostomo until the black box—recovered over the weekend—confirmed what he said.

Miranda also scored the grounding of all of LaoagAir's aircraft, including a twin-engine turboprop, while the Philippine Air Force's Fokker planes were not grounded.

He also said "politics" was clouding the in-

MOVING/A16

2 teens cited for heroism

By Philip C. Tubeza

HEROISM has no age requirement. Consider the story of Rico Cayabyab, 15, and his friend Elorde Naga, 12.

On Nov. 11, they went out to sea as young fishermen. They came back as heroes.

That was the day Laoag International Airlines Flight 585 crashed into Manila Bay. Fifteen of the 34 people on board survived—three of them through the help of Rico and Elorde.

"Other boys (in my place) could have been frightened. But what else could I do but help?" Rico asked.

Rico, Elorde, Elorde's father Edgar, 29, and uncle Crispolo,

2 TEENS/A16

GMA advisers to rate her managers

THE PERFORMANCE of Camacho and other economic managers are up for review.

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is forming a council of economic advisers to assess the performance of her "dream team" of economic managers, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said at a briefing yesterday.

Bunye said the planned council would be composed of "people who are not presently with the government." But Ms Macapagal has yet to name them amid persistent talk of a supposed impending reshuffle in her Cabinet, which Malacañang has repeatedly denied.

"The idea is to have a group that will be looking at the situation from a distance," Bunye said. He declined to answer questions on whether the formation of such a council reflected Malacañang's waning confidence in the "dream team" in light of the runaway budget deficit, poor revenue collections, increasing reliance on borrowings and other problems afflicting the economy.

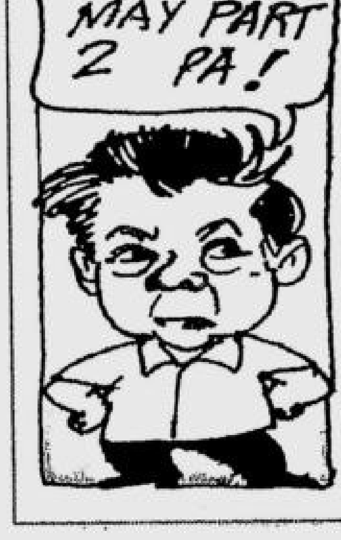
The team is composed of Secretaries Jose Camacho (finance), Manuel Roxas (trade), Emilia Boncodin (budget) and Vincent Perez (energy) and Dante Canlas of the National Economic and Development Authority.

In an interview after the briefing, Bunye said the planned council would provide the President "other points of view" concerning the economy—a function that, he said, its members would be in a position to fulfill because "they are not involved in the day-to-day affairs" of the government.

During the briefing, Bunye said Malacañang did not expect additional courtesy resignations after Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo "waste-basketed" those submitted last week by Camacho, Roxas and housing chief Michael Defensor.

"I think we can safely say that

GMA ADVISERS/A16


HINDI PA TAPOS ITO, MAY PART 2 PA!

Rene: How can Nani be so lucky?

RENE Saguisag is reminding all and sundry that far from being dead, the issue of the "million-dollar man" continues to twitch.

In a statement he issued yesterday, the former senator and self-proclaimed defender of "lost causes" called for a search for the Cabinet official who, according to Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, received a $2-million bribe from a crony of ousted President Joseph

RENE/A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/19/02

20 TO 25-CENTAVO PRICE ROLLBACK

Oil firms give consumers needed break

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL companies yesterday gave consumers a treat of sorts, announcing a month early the reduction by more than one percent, or between 20 and 25 centavos, of petroleum pump prices to reflect a drop in global crude costs.

Pilipinas Shell Petroleum, Petron Corp. and TotalFinaElf Phil. announced separately price cuts of 25 centavos per liter for gasoline and 20 centavos per liter for diesel and kerosene, to take effect at midnight last night.

Flying V, Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. at first said they would match the three companies' price changes.

However, Flying V later announced it had already done so starting at 4 p.m. yesterday while Seaoil said it cut prices at 6 p.m. last night. Eastern reduced its prices at 6 a.m. this morning.

Unioil, too

Meanwhile, Unioil Philippines Petroleum said it would implement a 25-centavo reduction for every liter of gasoline, diesel and kerosene, effective at 6 a.m. this morning.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron's corporate communications manager, said the earlier-than-expected price reduction reflected the downward trend in international crude prices in November.

"We are hopeful that this trend continues so that we can implement further cuts in prices," Ruivivar said.

Advanced

She added that Petron was moving its prices due to competitive pressures, noting that it was Shell that made the announcement first.

Roberto Kanapi, Pilipinas Shell general manager for external affairs, said in a telephone interview the firm was "advancing price reductions that, theoretically, should be reflected in December."

He said the company wanted to pass on to the public the lower prices "as soon as possible," while explaining that Shell still had inventories that were bought at the more expensive October prices.

Industry figures show that as of Nov. 15, Dubai crude prices have gone down by $3.42 to $22.90 a barrel, from the October average of $26.32 per barrel.

During the same period, the peso depreciated by 80 centavos, from P52.16 to the dollar in October to P52.96 in the first half of November.

Petron is the country's largest oil refiner while Shell, a part of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, is the second largest.

The rollbacks came at an opportune time, after jeepney drivers had threatened more nationwide strikes over high pump prices, and consumers were reeling from increased prices all around.

And with the US threatening war against Iraq, the rollbacks were a welcome relief to consumers.

Rebels torch another Globe tower in Laguna

LILIW, Laguna—Suspected members of the New People's Army (NPA) torched the Globe Telecommunications equipment tower on Sunday evening in an isolated barangay here.

Reports reaching the Provincial Investigations Office in Sta. Cruz town revealed that at about 6:10 p.m., about 10 communist guerillas, including a woman, disarmed the security guard at the installation in Barangay Ilayang Taykin, then set fire to the backup generator.

Residents rushed to notify authorities, and police and military troops arrived shortly afterwards, forcing the gunmen to withdraw after a brief firefight, and flee to the nearby mountains. Their getaway van has been recovered.

A pursuit team has been dispatched, according to Liliw police chief investigator SPO4 Teodoro Abadier.

"We have foiled another attack of the communist terrorists," regional military spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso said.

Police said the damage was serious enough to disable the tower "for a while."

Broso said he believed the rebel's motive was extortion.

It was the latest in a series of attacks by communist insurgents on civilian targets.

The NPA has stepped up extortion activities to make up for withering foreign support after the United States government's branded it a "foreign terrorist organization."

In response, the government ordered increased security at vital installations across the country, especially when Netherlands-based Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison called on the NPA, its armed wing, to mount attacks aimed at "economic disruption."

Col. Efren Orbon, army commander in the Calabarzon area, thanked the residents of Barangay Ilayang Taykin, for their "valuable help." *Romulo Ponte with a report from Ronnie Lorejo and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, AFP and AP*

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR.

RECOVERED GUNS
Outgoing Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor Jr. inspects several firearms confiscated by the Army's 5th Infantry Division in anti-communist operations in Cagayan, Kalinga and Quirino provinces. Others in photo are, from left, Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, AFP assistant chief of staff for operations, and Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th ID commander.

DOJ opens probe of 3 bomb suspects

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department yesterday started its preliminary investigation of the illegal possession of explosives case against three alleged members of a Moro Islamic Liberation Front bomb squad who were arrested last Thursday at the Manila North Harbor.

Authorities have yet to determine if the suspected bomb squad was connected with captured Abu Sayyaf bandit Abdulmukim Edris, who was alleged to have been planning to bomb the United States Embassy, the Philippine Stock Exchange and shopping malls using electronically detonated truck bombs.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the alleged MILF bomb squad could have been sent to Manila to start a wave of bombing attacks in the metropolis.

But the three suspects were arrested and disarmed before they could sow chaos and destruction, he said.

Two of the suspects were identified as Mohalidin Hassan, 33, and his brother Mogiahid alias Argie Beth Adam, 27, both from Crossing, Simuay, Sultan Kudarat in Maguindanao province.

"The suspects, believed members of the MILF out to carry terrorist attacks in Metro Manila, were accompanied by one Maimona Mogawan, 18, and a native of Purok Krislang, Kabakan, North Cotabato," said Calida, quoting an affidavit from the Western Police District.

Calida said the explosives had been carefully hidden boxes containing bananas.

Go document used to back Kissa's story

By Volt Contreras

STATE prosecutors yesterday worked at reinforcing star witness Clarissa "Kissa" Ocampo's damning testimony against deposed president Joseph Estrada, by producing a January 2001 affidavit allegedly executed by her boss, former Equitable PCIBank chair George L. Go.

The document had Go recounting a Dec. 13, 2000 incident where Estrada pal Jaime Dichaves signed documents antedated to Feb. 4, 2000, transferring to his name the P500-million trust account opened by "Jose Velarde."

Go said the transfer did not push through because Dichaves "never produced the letter-authority from the named principal, Jose Velarde, as required by EPCIB."

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo insisted that Go's affidavit would "corroborate" Ocampo's testimony and demolish the defense panel's claim that Dichaves, not Estrada, was the real Jose Velarde.

Ocampo has repeatedly claimed that the "principal" was Estrada himself, and that she personally witnessed him sign 15 times as "Jose Velarde" on documents opening the trust account, during a meeting at the Malacañang guest house.

The trust account was to facilitate a P500-loan from the Velarde account to the Wellex Group Inc. owned by another Estrada pal, William Gatchalian.

Marcelo handed out copies of the affidavit to reporters at the Sandiganbayan after Ocampo's second day of cross examination by Estrada's court-appointed lawyer Prospero Crescini.

During the trial proper, the defense panel confronted Ocampo with Dichaves' April 25, 1999 letter to then EPCIB senior vice president Romy Dy Tang, drawn from the controversial "second envelope."

In the letter, Dichaves asked to open a savings and current account "under the name of Jose Velarde c/o the undersigned."

Crescini asked, "You will agree with me that the tenor of that letter (shows) that the account of Jose Velarde was opened by Jaime Dichaves?"

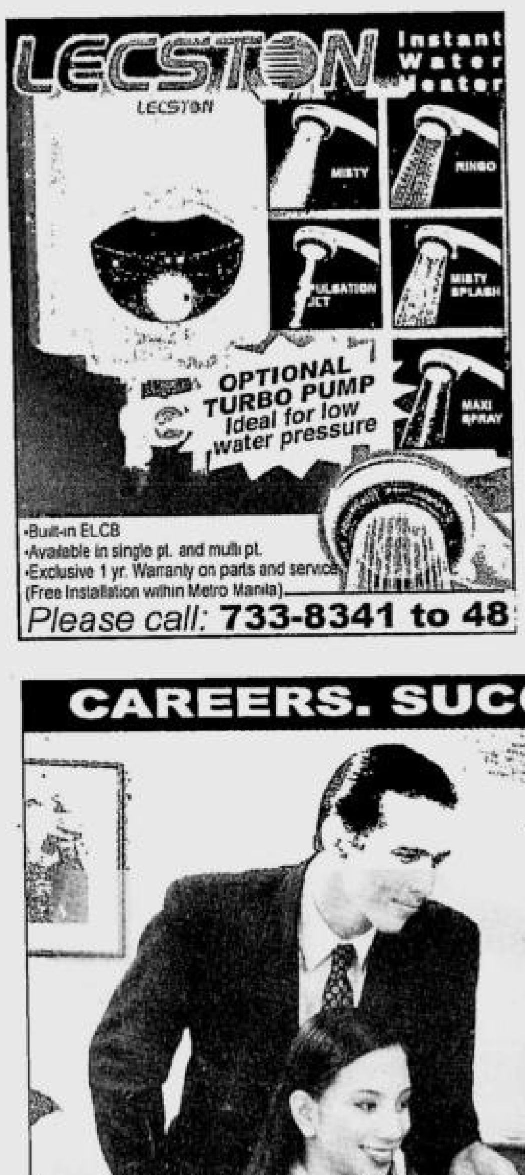
To the delight of the Estrada camp, Ocampo answered, "Yes sir."

Crescini also asked if Ocampo knew that the trust account under the name of "Velarde" was eventually "funded by a cashier's check issued upon the order of Jaime Dichaves?"

"Later on, I found out that a cashier check was used," the witness replied without mentioning Dichaves' name.

In a relentless attack on Ocampo's credibility, Crescini even suggested that she received hefty "financial assistance" from her bank as a "reward" for testifying against Estrada.

Ocampo denied she received more than the standard retirement pay when she quit as EPCIB senior vice president in February 2001. She is now a "just a consultant" to the bank.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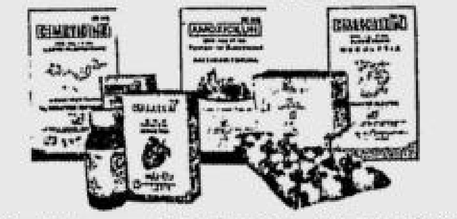
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Honor stude's slay has Merville in uproar

By Christian V. Esguerra

A 14-YEAR-OLD honor student was shot dead allegedly by a neighborhood thug in a so-called "police village" near the boundary of Pasay and Parañaque cities Thursday night.

Church and community leaders of Barangay Merville in Parañaque expressed outrage over the killing of Alvin John C. Valdez and the supposed efforts of Pasay police to keep the crime under wraps, ostensibly because of their failure to arrest any suspect.

"He was a very diligent and religious boy," said Jimmy Cura, owner of South Merville School where Valdez was a sophomore honor student and class president. "We never thought this would happen to him."

According to accounts, Valdez had just attended a religious service of the church of the Latter-Day Saints and taken a tricycle when he was shot at around 9:45 p.m. Thursday, along the Kalayaan access road near Merville.

Cura quoted witnesses as saying that the gunman hopped onto the back of the motorcycle where Valdez was sitting behind the driver. Moments later, the driver heard gunshots and saw the boy's bloodied body sprawled on the pavement.

"The gunman even grabbed the dying boy by the collar, probably to get his bag," Cura said, quoting another account. "He had already taken the boy's wallet but he still wanted more."

Solon pushes for reforms in judiciary

AFTER the police, military and agriculture sectors, it is the turn of the judiciary to be modernized, according to Senate committee on justice and human rights chair Francis Pangilinan.

Pangilinan called for the enactment of the Judiciary Reform and Modernization Act (JRMA) during a round table discussion conducted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under its technical assistance program.

"This is long overdue," Pangilinan said. "Integral to the building of a strong republic is the speedy and efficient administration of justice."

Pangilinan stressed that the proposed law would "address the problems facing the judiciary such as low pay arising from the salary standardization law, outmoded equipment, backlog and delay in cases."

For example, he said, a junior lawyer based in Makati and with only three years of experience earned five times more than a Regional Trial Court or Metropolitan Trial Court judge.

Rocky Nazareno

Time running out for absentee vote

IT would be impossible to implement the national elections overseas in 2004 if the absentee voting bill is not passed by the end of this year, the Commission on Elections warned yesterday.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said the two chambers of Congress should immediately reconcile their different versions of the bill.

The Comelec is set to appear before the bicameral committee today to present its recommendations.

Borra said the Comelec's prepared timetable starts with the registration of Filipinos abroad in February next year.

"If Congress passes (the bill) this month and the President signs it by yearend, we can implement (the overseas voting)," Borra said. "(Otherwise) it would be impossible."

He said the Comelec still had to install safeguards against cheating in the landmark polls, for which P1 billion in funds had been allocated.

Blanche S. Rivera

Dadong's bio to be launched

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—"From Nipa Hut to Presidential Palace," the late President Diosdado Macapagal's autobiography, will be launched here on Dec. 9, during the 431st founding anniversary of Pampanga.

The book launch will be held back to back with the opening of a photo exhibit chronicling the life of the President Macapagal-Arroyo's father, who died in 1997.

Gov. Manuel Lapid said Ms Macapagal will be asked to grace the twin events, set at the provincial capitol's lobby two days before the formal start of "Kapampangan Week."

The autobiography, published by the Philippine Academy for Continuing Education and Research (Pacer), is also available in a CD version.

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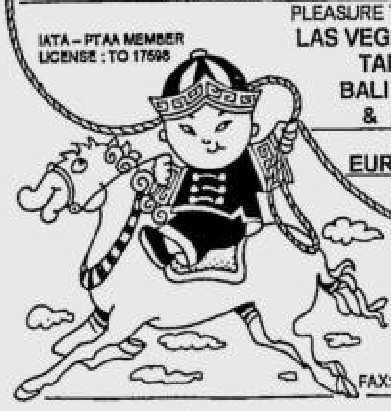

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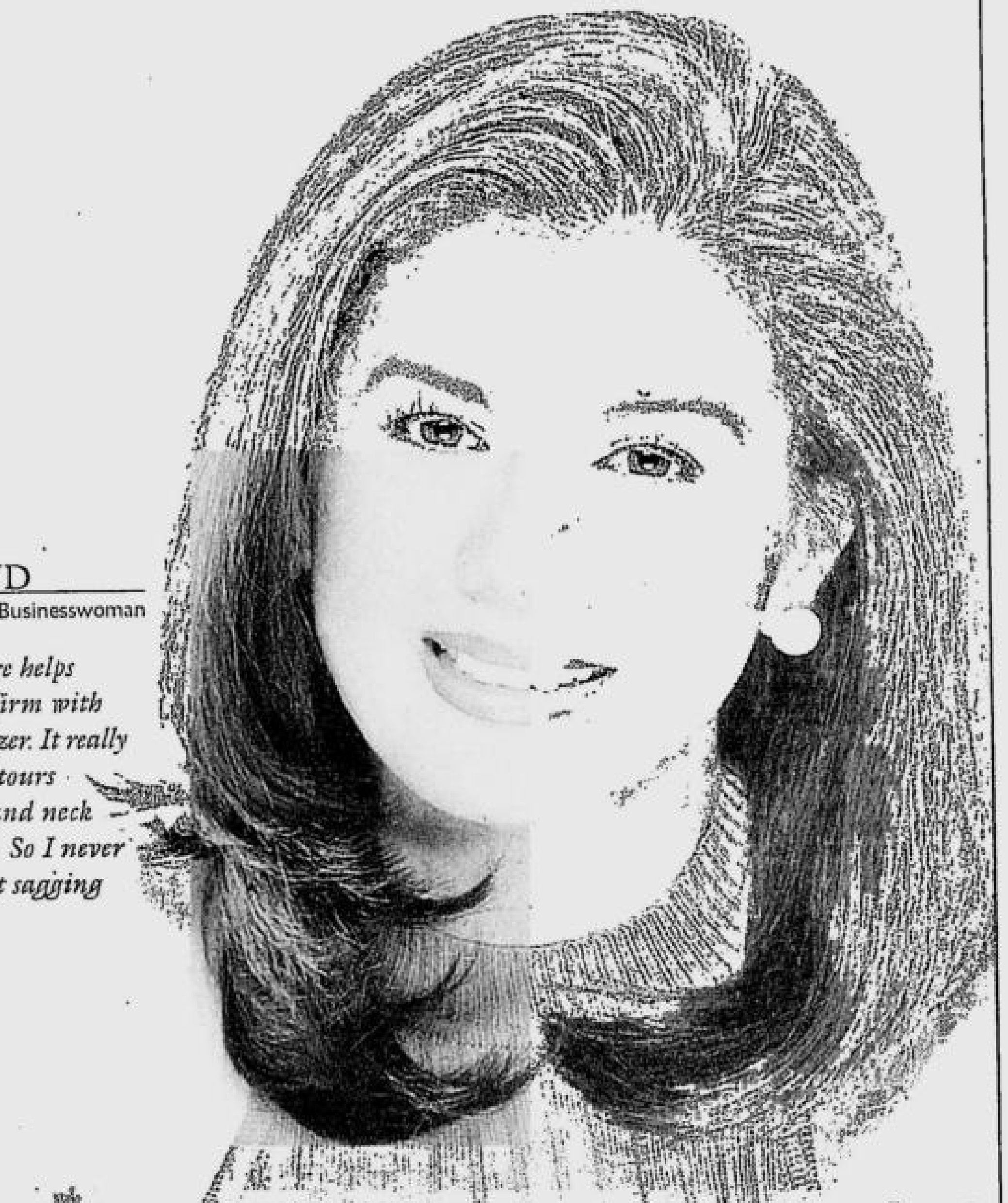

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Comelec may turn to loans in order to modernize

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Elections has been given the green light by the House of Representatives to borrow additional funds for the poll body's modernization program should the P4.9-billion budget approved by Congress not be enough, chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said yesterday.

Abalos said that certain House members, whom he did not name, had assured him that it was permissible for the Comelec to seek out a loan when he went to the House to attend the budget hearings last Tuesday.

He said the unnamed legislators had also agreed to provide a guarantee for the loan by appropriating the payment for it in the annual national budget for as long as necessary.

"Congress said that if there are no funds available, and considering the need and urgency of the matter, there will be a colatilla with GA (the General Appropriations Act) guarantee that they'll provide money for payment," Abalos said in an earlier interview.

The Comelec had tried to secure a loan for the program from the Development Bank of the Philippines some months ago, but came up against harsh reactions from Congress which halted the negotiations.

The Comelec has been provided P1.7 billion for the cleansing and validation of the voters' list as well as a new registration in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao next year.

It will also get P2.2 billion for the purchase of counting machines, ballots and ballot boxes for the automation of the polls, and P1 billion for electronic transmission and consolidation.

Abalos said the Comelec already has P2.9 billion for the modernization program and would need only P2 billion more for the projects.

"We're very happy because Congress adopted our budget proposal in toto," said Abalos, a former stalwart of the Lakas party to which many congressmen belong.

Meanwhile, party list groups in Congress are demanding that the Comelec immediately proclaim the nominees who won additional party-list seats in the House.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales said yesterday her group, Citizens' Battle Against Corruption (Cibac), Butil and the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) have filed a consolidated petition asking the poll body to proclaim their party list representative-nominees in the House.

The five are Mario J. Aguja for Akbayan; lawyer Edgar Valdez and Sonny Madamba for Apec; Leonila Chavez for Butil and Maria Blanca Kim Bernardo Lokin for Cibac. *With Christine Avendaño*

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Though late, RP vies to host Pacific fisheries agency

THE PHILIPPINES, Fiji and Samoa are late starters in the race to host the headquarters of a fisheries regulatory body covering the western and central Pacific, officials said Monday.

The three nations join Papua New Guinea, Micronesia and Tonga in vying to be the site of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission headquarters that may be set up in early 2004, said Michael Powles, chair of the preparatory conference for the setting up of the commission.

The conference in Manila is working out the details for implementing a convention, signed in Honolulu, Hawaii, in September 2000, for the conservation and management of migratory fish stocks, particularly tuna.

Selection of the country that will host the headquarters is one of the issues expected to be settled at the Manila conference which ends on Friday, said Powles, who represents New Zealand.

The Philippines, Fiji and Samoa sent in their applications after the deadline for prospective hosts expired, but Powles said he did not believe this would be a drawback.

"I would not think it would count against them at all," said Powles.

He said the conference would work to reconcile "the interests of the coastal states and the fishing states."

Much of the migratory fish stocks pass near the territories of the coastal states, such as the Pacific island nations, but the fishing industries are largely East Asian, European and North American.

Philippine fisheries director Malcolm Sarmiento said the conference would formulate conservation measures to ensure a sustainable supply of tuna in the Pacific.

Powles said the western and central Pacific contained "the world's last great tuna resource" and, if properly managed, the bounty could be sustained.

But he warned that "if it is not properly managed and protected ... the loss will be absolutely enormous." *AFP*

Judge raps slow pace of libel case

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City judge is fed up with the Department of Justice.

Judge Normandie Pizarro of the QC Regional Trial Court has warned the Office of the State Prosecutor of possible sanctions if it did not act soon on a libel case against running priest Fr. Robert Reyes.

Pizarro's order came after Fr. Reyes' scheduled arraignment was canceled for the third time late last week because of the DOJ officials' failure to resolve the priest's petition for review.

Reyes had asked the DOJ in June this year to reverse the resolution issued by a Quezon City prosecutor finding probable cause in the libel case filed in October 2001 by Cagayan Rep. Juan Ponce "Jackie" Enrile Jr.

Based on the Rules on Criminal Procedure, the 60-day period for the DOJ to rule on the petition for review lapsed in the second week of August.

The result of the review process, Pizarro said, was "long pending and overdue."

He pointed out that because of DOJ's failure to issue a ruling, Reyes' arraignment had already been postponed thrice. "The injury or damage that might befall the accused is considered substantial, if not fatal, if the arraignment process (proceeded) even without the outcome of the review process," Pizarro explained.

That considered, he said, "this court or all of the parties should (not forever) be held hostage to the continuing non-ability of the DOJ to resolve the pending incident before it."

Pizarro ordered the Office of the State Prosecutor to explain within the week why it had not finished the review process.

Enrile filed the libel charges after Reyes, during a televised interview, accused him and his father, former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, of killing the priest's nephew in the 1970s.

The arraignment has again been reset to Jan. 16.

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Resigned execs may not be charged–Bunye

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday a former director of the Public Estates Authority could be right in saying that there was no basis anymore for pursuing administrative charges against the resigned PEA directors implicated in the alleged P600 million overpricing of the President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

"Technically, he is correct," Bunye said of former PEA director Rodolfo Tuazon's claim that since the PEA directors had resigned then they could no longer be charged administratively.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission had said that it had found sufficient evidence to file administrative charges against the PEA directors.

"The penalty that can be imposed arising out of an administrative charge is either suspension or termination," Bunye said. "But since they have been separated from the service then I believe, personally, that the administrative charge should already be dropped."

In previous interviews, PAGC chair Dario Rama said that based on Executive Order No. 12 setting up the anti-graft body, PAGC could slap erring government officials with administrative charges even though they had resigned.

Carlito Pablo

Professionals enjoined to help ease poverty

THE FOUNDATION for Professional Training Inc. (FPTI) will hold a forum aimed at encouraging more professional men and women to get involved in poverty alleviation programs, on Nov. 19 at the Asian Institute of Management in Makati City.

Titled "Finding God in and through Social Work," the forum will feature a message from Jose Cuisia, president and CEO of the Philam Life Insurance Co.

For details, please call Sylvia (818-1567), Elvie (759-6225) and Opel (892-2056).

Meeting was no loyalty check–Ebdane

By TJ Burgonio

POLICE officials yesterday dismissed speculations that President Macapagal-Arroyo was conducting a loyalty check among military and police forces following her meeting with sergeant majors of the Armed Forces over the weekend.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., the chief of the Philippine National Police, confirmed that the President had a dialogue with the sergeant majors from the AFP's three branches, but said it was a "regular activity" that he said was in the nature of a get-together.

'Just like in the PNP, from time to time we have police officers having a fellowship with the PNP chief. Since the President is the Commander in Chief, there is really a need to hold these acquaintance (meetings). There was no significant issue that was discussed," "he said at a press briefing yesterday.

Ms Macapagal had a luncheon meeting with some 30 sergeant majors, led by Army Sgt. Maj. Herberto Inocencio, at Malacañang on Saturday. Sshe assured the country's soldiers that they would receive their salary increase on a staggered basis over a period of 18 months.

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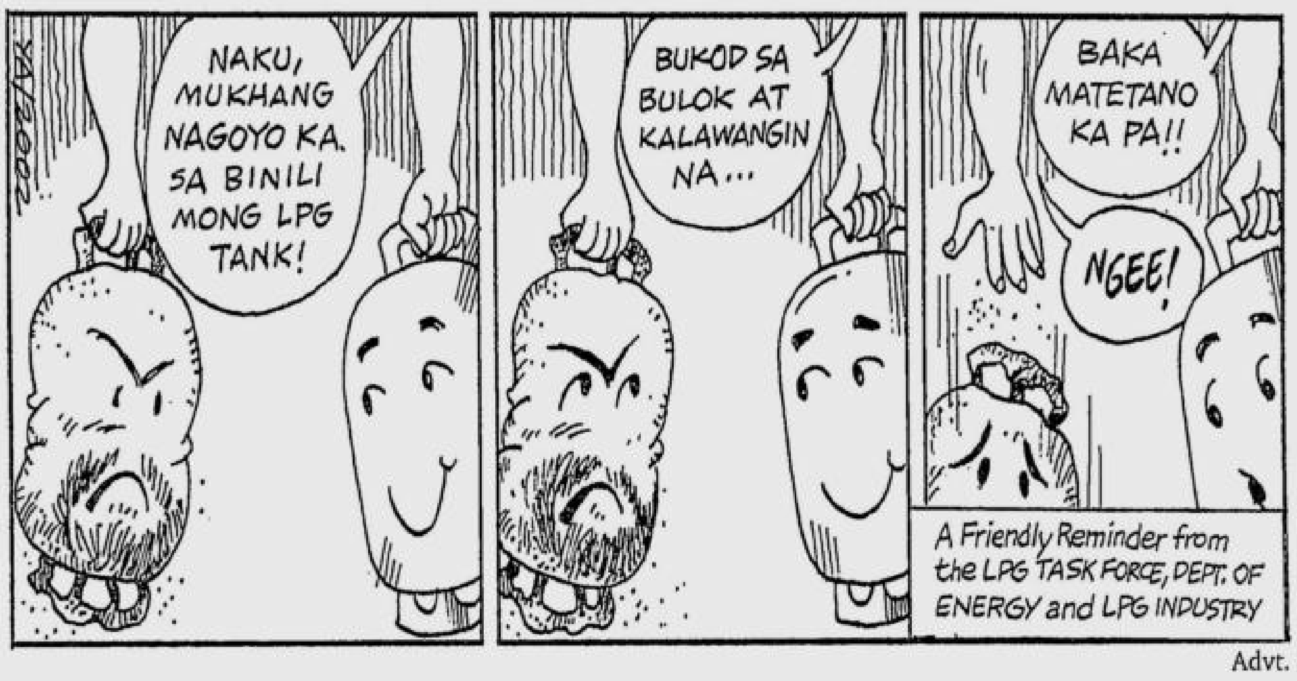
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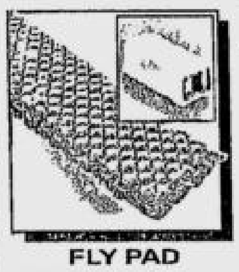
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PLDT workers poised to strike over job cuts

By Abigail L. Ho and Blanche S. Rivera

EMPLOYEES of dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. are poised to go on strike to protest management's redeployment and possible retrenchment of around 500 regional telephone operators.

Martin "Binky" Gaticales, PLDT technical support engineer and a member of the supervisors' union Gabay ng Unyon sa Telekomunikasyon ng mga Superbisor (GUTS), said in an interview yesterday that a "prayer rally" would be held today after office hours at the Mabuhay Rotonda in Quezon City.

Although this would not be a formal strike, he said the rank-and-file union Manggagawa ng Komunikasyon sa Pilipinas (KMP) has filed a notice of strike with the labor department and was just waiting for results of hearings with PLDT management there.

KMP president Peter Pinlac said in another interview that if management's reactions would not be favorable during these hearings, the employees would be forced to go on strike next month.

He said the union's 7,000 members could cripple the telecommunications giant's operations.

But PLDT vice president for media and communications Menardo "Butch" Jimenez said management and union were still talking.

"Both management and union are presently in discussion. We remain hopeful the matter could be resolved at the soonest possible time," he said.

Management and union officials face each other at the labor department at a hearing today.

Gaticales said that on Nov. 23, 362 rank-and-file employees and 29 supervisors received letters from PLDT's human resources department informing them that there was "an excess of traffic operators in the provinces" so most of these operations would be closed down by yearend.

He made it clear the letters were not tantamount to actual dismissal of the affected employees, but it meant redeploying them to PLDT's directory assistance (114) center in Sampaloc, Manila.

"If they have nowhere to go, they will be forced to avail of the early retirement program, so there'll be a threat to their job security," he said.

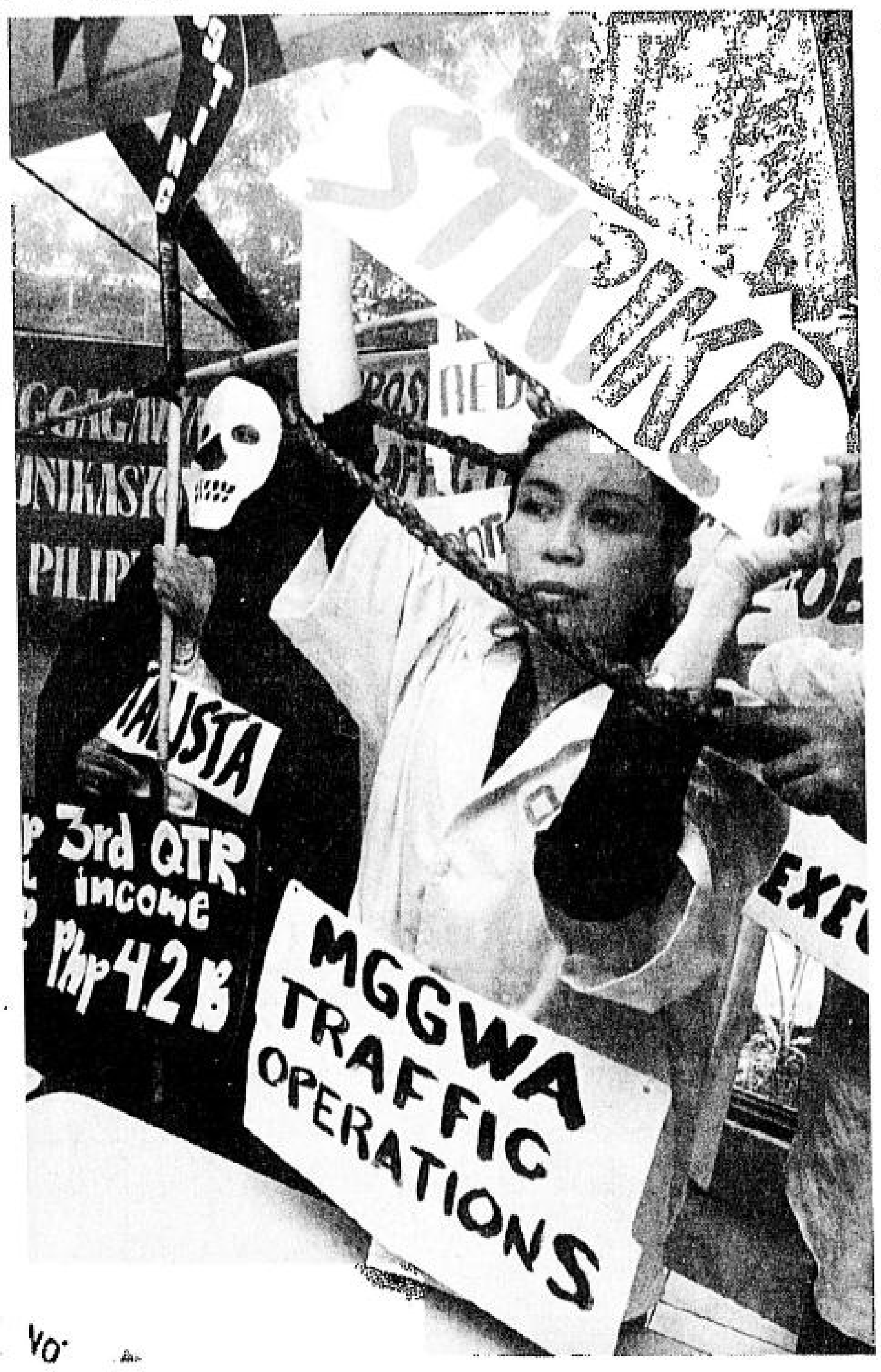
While 362 telephone operators would be "dislocated," Gaticales said there were only around 160 openings for operators.

"This is why we are asking that the other operators be transferred to other departments with openings, like in other PLDT affiliates," he said.

Although the only visible stand of the employees would be the prayer rally today spearheaded by the MKP and supported by GUTS, a company source said employees might stage a lockout at certain PLDT facilities.

Gaticales said that since the advent of digital communications in 1995, PLDT has been studying ways to reduce the number of its employees.

"They have been doing this (retrenchments) in the past in some regional operations centers, in small numbers. From around 21,000 employees, we're down to around 12,000 now. We know they'll be removing more employees in the future," he said.



WRONG NUMBER. PLDT union protest plans to shut down remaining regional operator services, which would put 392 employees out of service. ERIK ARAZAS

'Absent' Imelda may face arrest

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department has warned Imelda Marcos that she could be arrested if she decides to snub the Dec. 10 hearing on the dollar-salting case against her before a Manila court.

Justice Undersecretary Manuel A. J. Teehankee told reporters yesterday that the subpoena issued by Judge Aida Roque of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26 ordering the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to appear in court was "mandatory" in a criminal case.

"Failure to appear may result in the court possibly citing her in contempt, the cancellation of her bail bond and her immediate arrest," Teehankee said.

Teehankee, who is the department spokesperson, explained that a pre-trial conference was "meant to narrow down the matters to be taken up" by the court during the trial proper.

That's why there is a need for Marcos to personally attend, he said.

Roque issued the subpoena last month ordering Imelda to attend the pre-trial proceedings in Criminal Case No. 92-1079443 to 44.

The judge noted that at the pre-trial hearing on Oct. 9, only the state prosecutor and a Marcos lawyer appeared before the court.

She then reset the pre-trial conference for Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.

Imelda faces 21 other dollar-salting suits filed with the Pasig City RTC.

Teehankee said more dollar-salting cases have been filed against Imelda. A total of 34 cases have been consolidated with the Manila RTC, including the 21 cases filed in Pasig.

The charges stemmed from allegations that she and her husband have accounts in the Swiss Bank Corp. in Geneva, Switzerland amounting to some 16 million Swiss francs registered under the name of Maler establishment.

Filipino citizens are barred from maintaining a foreign exchange account abroad without first seeking the approval of the central bank.

Another House bill filed restructuring BIR

By Christine O. Avendano

ANOTHER bill was filed in the House yesterday seeking to restructure the Bureau of Internal Revenue, this time turning it into a corporation with better-qualified personnel subjected to "lifestyle checks," among other things.

Filed by seven lawmakers led by Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, the bill seeks to replace the BIR with the National Authority for Revenue Administration (NARA) and improve its revenue collection in the face of a huge budget deficit that one House member said may reach P200 billion next year.

The measure rivals House Bill 5054 which was filed by Speaker Jose de Venecia and creates the Internal Revenue Management Authority (IRMA) in place of the BIR.

The authors of the new bill said, however, that unlike the IRMA, their measure would address the concerns of the BIR employees over their fate.

"The bill takes into consideration the security of tenure of BIR employees and at the same time seeks to instill in them discipline and professionalism," said Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales, one of the bill's authors.

Under the bill, BIR employees would be given "preferential absorption" in hiring for new positions if they qualify under the criteria set by the new authority.

"Selection of Authority personnel shall be based strictly on merit and fitness and applicants may likewise be subjected to lifestyle checks to ensure their suitability for appointment to the new organization," the bill said.

At a news conference, Cibac party-list Rep. Emmanuel Joel Villanueva said the bill would also provide separation and retirement packages for the employees.

Abad underscored the need to restructure the BIR, saying it is responsible for collecting 80 percent of revenues for the government, yet it continues to fail to meet collection targets.

Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta said government is losing P400 billion a year to corruption at the BIR. The amount, he said, is equivalent to half of the government's proposed P804.2 billion budget for next year.

The chair of the House appropriations committee said yesterday his committee will not rely on the economic projections of the Department of Finance for next year during deliberations on the proposed 2003 budget.

Rep. Rolando Andaya branded the DOF's projection of a P142.1-billion deficit next year as "understated" and its estimate of a P465-billion collection by the BIR for next year as "overstated."

"Despite the clear writing on the wall that these targets won't be met, the DOF continues to cling to them," Andaya said in a statement. "We can no longer buy these works of fiction."

He said the committee will rely on its own studies and has cut its subscription of "DOF-churned data."

"For the first time in history, the House will use its own macro-economic assumptions," Andaya said.

According to his committees' "simulations," he said the BIR would be lucky if it collects P407.4 billion of its P465-billion target.

If this is the case, Andaya said the budget deficit would climb from P142.1 billion to P200 billion next year.

GMA receives Cambodian prince

Ranariddh vows to work against poverty in Asian region

CAMBODIA'S Prince Norodom Ranariddh met with President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday and pledged to work closely with leaders of Congress to ease poverty in the region.

The President hosted a luncheon in honor of Ranariddh, the head of the royalist Funcinpec party and president of Cambodia's National Assembly, in Malacañang.

The prince later shuttled to the House of Representatives for a meeting with Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia and Ranarridh signed a memorandum of understanding, which included a call for the creation of a so-called "anti-poverty bank" to finance pro-poor projects in Southeast Asia.

The bank is to focus on micro-lending to support small entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

The joint initiative is to be proposed to the next general meeting of senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, De Venecia said.

Ranariddh arrived here Sunday with his wife Princess Norodom Marie Ranariddh and their daughter Princess Norodom Ratanederie, for a five-day visit upon De Venecia's invitation.

He is the potential successor to his father King Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's constitutional monarch, although accession is decided by a throne council rather than birthright.

In her remarks at lunch, Ms Macapagal said she was happy to note that Ranariddh was among a number of parliamentarians in the Southeast Asian region who are working towards the establishment of an Asean parliament, similar to the European parliament.

Noting that Cambodia would be holding elections for the National Assembly next year, the President cited Ranariddh's role "in ending civil strife in Cambodia which makes elections possible."

Ranariddh headed one of the two leading parties that agreed to share power following United Nations-sponsored elections that ended the civil war in Cambodia in 1993. He shared power with co-Prime Minister Hun Sen in the new government.

On July 5, 1997, however, Hun Sen staged a coup ousting Ranariddh. Hun Sen's party won parliamentary elections the next year and Ranariddh became president of the National Assembly.

The President said Cambodia and the Philippines could learn much from each other.

"The Philippines could consider Cambodia's rich cultural heritage and the effort to preserve and promote it as an area of bilateral cooperation," she said.

The President cited the prince for his filmmaking talent and his "courageous vision for the future of Khmer art and culture." Ranariddh produced and directed his first movie "Raja Bori," or Royal Land.

On a personal note, Ms Macapagal admitted to feeling sentimental in hosting the Prince yesterday "because 40 years ago, my father, President Diosdado Macapagal, also hosted your father in this very same room."

The President received the Prince at the Study Room and the two were later joined by Ranariddh's wife and daughter for lunch at the State Dining Room.

The others who attended the luncheon were First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, First Daughter Luli Arroyo, Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople, Senate President Franklin Drilon and House Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife, Gina. *AFP*

CHEERS President Macapagal and Prince Samdech Preah Norodom Ranariddh of Cambodia in a toast to cooperation between their countries, during yesterday's luncheon at Malacañang's state dining room.
EDWIN BACASMAS

For once, gov't agency mulls own budget cut

By Cynthia D. Balana

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday proposed to Congress a much leaner budget for his department next year in response to the government's streamlining program—the first time in the history of the budget that a department had done so.

In his opening statement during the Senate budget hearing, Alvarez said the DENR budget reflected the concerns of the recently concluded Earth Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, which he attended.

He said the department's P6.002 billion proposed budget for 2003 was lower by 8.1 percent, or by P530 million, than this year's P6.5 billion.

Alvarez said that most of the DENR offices, from the central office down to the regions, including attached bureaus and agencies, would have decreased budgets for next year.

He said the DENR was refocusing its activities in areas that would have the greatest impact o the economy and the people.

"Our emphasis is on breaking the chain of poverty, especially among our stakeholders—the upland dwellers, marginal fisherfolk, small scale miners and the urban poor. We shall protect the environment and conserve our natural resources in ways that will reduce poverty," Alvarez said.

He said that in formulating the budget, the department had focused on the issues discussed at the Johannesburg summit "wherein the paramount concern was to lift the people out of poverty by defending the integrity of the environment."

The Johannesburg summit, attended by 200 world leaders, reaffirmed efforts for sustainable development, with the leaders "vowing to provide the world's peoples access to food , clean water, sanitation, shelter, energy, health care and biodiversity protection."

Alvarez said that unless the government solves these environmental problems, it would not be able to solve poverty.

Also on the budget, Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta criticized Malacañang for reducing by 80 percent the funds provided for teachers' training in the proposed national budget.

Oreta said the cut would seriously undermine government efforts to upgrade public schoolteachers' skills to handle the teaching of the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (RBEC).

Dubbed the "millenium curriculum," the RBEC involves focusing learning areas on five core subjects, comprising Reading/English, Math, Science, Filipino and a Makabayan course that includes art, music, information technology, civic, culture and health, social studies, technical and home economics, life skills and values education.

"This fund slash reflects the serious neglect by the Macapagal administration of the basic education sector," Oreta said.

She said this was contrary to President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge during the recent Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit to give priority to education as a tool to fight poverty, which was the primary cause of terrorism in developing countries like the Philippines.

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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 344
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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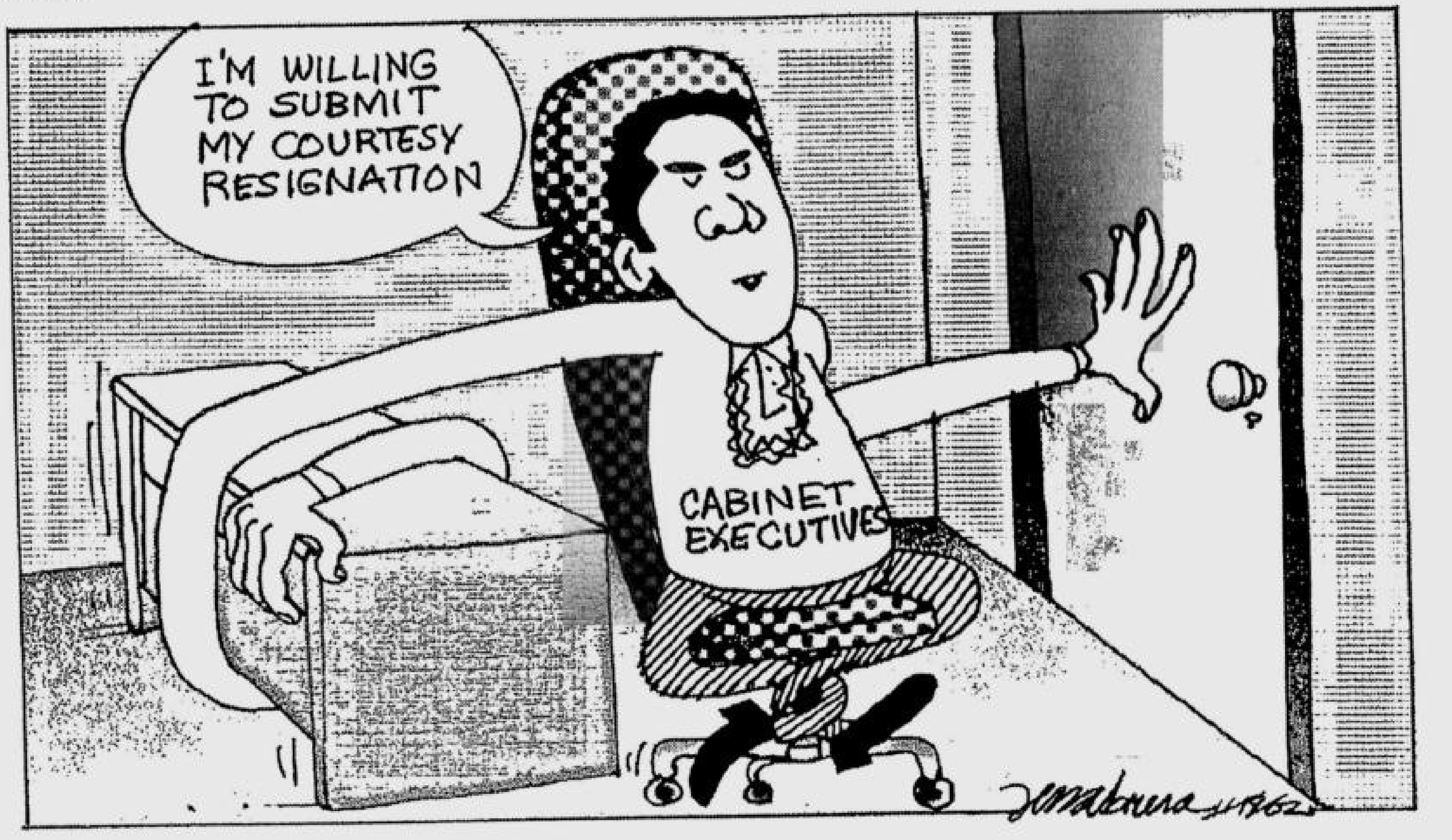
I'M WILLING TO SUBMIT MY COURTESY RESIGNATION
CABINET EXECUTIVES

EDITORIALS

Illegal acts

BEFORE CONGRESS goes on its Christmas recess, the House of Representatives will have to vote whether to affirm or overturn the decision of the committee on justice to dismiss the impeachment complaint against Election Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco. If the House postpones its decision until next year there is the danger that it may be influenced by political developments in the runup to 2004.

The House committee on justice, in a referendum last month, dismissed the impeachment complaint. Thirty-six members voted to dismiss the complaint for lack of substance, while 16 voted in favor. Four abstained.

We can't understand how 36 supposedly intelligent representatives could have found that the complaint lacked substance. The complaint charged Tancangco with inefficiency and gross inexcusable negligence, betrayal of the public trust and culpable violation. The complaint is about eight pages long and has nearly 200 pages of annexes. It sets out in detail the alleged wrongdoings of Tancangco.

The documents in the annexes, including the findings of the Commission on Audit, transcripts of Comelec meetings and copies of orders, are more than sufficient to meet the requirement that there be reasonable grounds to believe that the offenses have been committed. So, why the finding that the complaint was not sufficient in substance?

A recent Supreme Court ruling nullifying a contract to computerize the voters' registration list virtually indicts Tancangco. The Court ruled that the VRIS contract awarded by the Comelec to Photokina was "illegal and against public policy" because its cost of P6.5 billion was way beyond the amount appropriated by Congress which was only P1 billion. Will Congress allow this illegal act to go uninvestigated and unpunished?

Tancangco also has to answer for the P500 million she spent for a precinct mapping project that was not authorized by law. She purchased P46.4 million worth of cameras and films for use in the ARMM elections. These are now rotting in the Comelec warehouse. The COA's findings indicate, at the very least, negligence or incompetence on her part.

Tancangco did not attend 44 (or 42 percent) of the Comelec meetings from January 2001 to February 2002. She gave no excuses or prior notice. For lack of quorum, the Comelec was paralyzed and was unable to act on urgent matters. This is gross neglect of duty that is punishable by dismissal under the Administrative Code.

The charge sheet against Tancangco is figuratively a mile long and reads like a list of the acts and practices that the Anti-Graft Law prohibits a public official from committing. We believe that if the House examines the well-documented complaint, it will impeach Tancangco. Her continuance in office is inimical to the cause of free and honest elections. The very least the House can do is endorse the complaint to the Senate for trial so that the truth can be brought out in open hearings.

Train to Bicol

ONE piece of "railroading" that we're sure people were glad to read about is the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the Philippines and China for the modernization of the railway system from Calamba City in Laguna to Legazpi City in Albay.

It is the first major government project in nearly 40 years to rehabilitate the deteriorating Southern Line. It will bore a new trail through the mountains of the Bicol region and extend the railway line all the way to Matnog, Sorsogon. Speaker Jose de Venecia, who proposed the modernization program, said its details are contained in the Railways Modernization Act that has been passed by the House.

The railroads have been a major factor in the economic progress of many nations. One of them is the United States where efficient train transportation is a vital factor in the strength of the national economy. About one-third of the freight hauled in the United States is by train, and there are very few Americans who do not use the services of the US railroads. India has one of the most extensive networks in the world and its railroad system is the government's largest.

In the Philippines the development of the railways has sadly been neglected when it could help accelerate the economic development of the nation. We hope that the RP-China project would be started soon, that the Northern Line would also be rehabilitated and that other railway systems would be set up in the larger islands like Mindanao, Samar, Leyte and Panay.

Courts are too slow in poll cases

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

A NATURAL consequence of the delay of Supreme Court decisions in the Leonardo Roman and Francis Tolentino cases is that the legitimate governor and mayor and the people of Bataan and Tagaytay, respectively, have been denied justice for already more than half of their three-year term. If the decisions are delayed even further—even with the precedent in the Hagedorn case—they will be denied justice for almost the whole term and the law will be rendered meaningless.

If the decisions are that they are qualified to run in the 2001 elections, then no harm is done. The only thing it would do is disqualify them for the 2004 elections, as that would be their prohibited fourth consecutive term.

But what will happen, for example, if the decisions disqualifying them in the 2001 elections are rendered only a few months before the end of their term? Roman and Tolentino would have defied the law for almost the whole term. Bataan and Tagaytay would have had an illegal and illegitimate governor and mayor, respectively, for almost one full term.

Plus it gives them the added bonus to run for three more terms for the same position as there would have been an interruption—even if only for a few months—in serving their last terms. The next term for which they may be elected would be considered their first terms in a new three-term cycle. Except for a few months interruption, therefore, they would be able to serve seven terms consecutively.

Still another bonus is that the delay would give the two "illegitimate" officials the undue and unfair advantage of being able to maximize, politically, the use of the office they have usurped, which would unfairly increase their chances of winning the 2004 elections.

And whose fault would that be? Not only the two usurpers' but, even more grievously, the Supreme Court's for not acting fast to prevent such a travesty of justice.

In fact, it would be more advantageous for Roman and Tolentino to be disqualified in the 2001 elections because that would qualify them for the 2004 elections due to the interruption in their consecutive terms. The trick is to delay the decisions so that they would be out of office for only a few months.

And in delaying cases, especially political ones, we have the willing connivance of the courts, including the highest in the land. In fact, that is the standard technique of defense lawyers in election protests in the courts, in the Senate and House electoral tribunals and in the Commission on Elections. The trick is to grab the proclamation and be installed in office, and let the opponent file protests. The defeated candidate can protest to high heavens but the wheels of justice in the Philippines grind so slowly that before the real poll winner can get a favorable decision, his term would be almost over and the cheat has already collected the salaries and allowances that rightfully belong to him. A congresswoman sits illegally in the House of Representatives right now. The Comelec has proclaimed her rival as the winner but she refuses to vacate the position. The term is more than half over but the House Electoral Tribunal is delaying the case, protecting one of its own, albeit an illegitimate one. The real winner may not be able to occupy his rightful seat in the House at all.

In Philippine politics, the cheats almost always win. They get away with murder (sometimes literally) because of the sloth, negligence, indifference and sometimes connivance of the people whose duty is to oil the wheels of justice so that they will grind faster and justice can be done to all men quickly.

* * *

Meralco is about to be hit a double whammy. Close on the heels of the unanimous Supreme Court decision ordering it to pay back P28 billion that it has overcharged its customers, is the new charge of former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile that Meralco has overcharged its customers another P337.6 million. Enrile said this other anomaly was done in conspiracy with a company headed by former National Power Corp. president Jesus Alcordo.

Enrile told the Energy Regulatory Commission that the overcharging stemmed from a supply contract between Meralco and Duracom Mobile Power Corp. owned by East Asia Power. East Asia Power was once headed by Alcordo as president and stockholder, he said.

While the contract specified that Duracom sell power to Meralco at only 95 percent of the Napocor rate, Duracom was actually billing Meralco at higher rates. Meralco then passed on the overcharge to consumers, Enrile revealed. From January 2000 to June 2002, the overcharge totaled P337.6 million. The overcharging was highest from March 2001 to February 2002, when Alcordo was president of Napocor.

The power contract called for Duracom to supply Meralco 108 megawatts of electricity from diesel barges. Alcordo and East Asia entered the picture in 1995 supposedly to put up the barges. Alcordo supposedly agreed to pay Duracom commissions in the form of revenue retention ranging from 15 centavos to 21 centavos per kWh, or a total of P150 million to P200 million a year at the exchange rate of P25 to $1.

East Asia then hired Sunny Sun, Duracom's principal owner, to get another power contract with Meralco for an additional 108 megawatts.

Enrile said President Macapagal-Arroyo has named Alcordo her adviser on power with the rank of undersecretary.

Expect another suit asking Meralco to refund the P337.6 million overcharge to its customers.

Lessons

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE TRIP to Germany I went to a couple of months ago was one that drew journalists from all over the world. One or two representatives from the different countries, particularly those from Asia. There was one exception. That was China.

The Chinese were an entire contingent unto themselves. There must have been five or six of them, most of whom, except for one elderly gentleman who spoke a bit of English, smiled a lot and looked like the most senior party member and designated political officer, were young. Or young from where I'm at—people in their 30s or early 40s. They were taken care of by a couple of German ladies who wore cheongsams elegantly during parties and spoke Mandarin even more elegantly while interpreting for them. It was quite a shock to hear them speak Chinese, and it made you ask yourself why you could not.

But it wasn't just the quantity of the Chinese representation that was startling, it was the quality too. These were not the same delegates you saw a couple of decades, or probably even a decade, ago. The kind who wore white polo shirts, with T-shirts tucked underneath, loose dark pants, which flapped in the wind like a flag, and kept to themselves in corners, listening intently and jotting down notes. They still listened intently and jotted down notes, but apart from that, everything had changed.

They wore dark three-piece suits, whipped out tiny cellular phones, and wrote on laptops (my two-year-old one, which I've prided for being light and sleek, suddenly looked ancient). More to the point, they were perpetually on the move, congregating easily with the other fellows and asking questions from the resource persons. They were friendly but professional, as professional as any reporter from BBC or CNN pursuing a story doggedly. They exuded an aura of confidence I hadn't seen before inside or outside of China. But then I visited that country ages ago, and as everybody has been telling me, it has changed in quite epic terms. There and then, in that gathering in Germany, I saw just how much.

I remembered this when I read in the papers and saw on television that Hu Jintao has become the new premier of China, the "fourth generation" leader after Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin. It wasn't unexpected, and the transition was smooth. But it was dramatic nonetheless. I saw Hu's pictures in the papers and TV, and I thought he looked completely unlike his predecessors. It wasn't just because he is 59, which is revolutionary enough in a country that has made it a habit to elevate to power only those people who have to fend off the ravages of time along with the plots of their rivals. It was also because though he was older than most of the Chinese delegates I met in Germany, he could very easily have been one of them. He exuded the same kind of drive, he exuded the same kind of confidence.

There was one detail about him, however, that caught my eye as well, and gave me a glimpse into the sources of this drive and confidence. Long before he became head of the world's most populous and fastest-growing economy, Hu was a student at Tsinghua University in Beijing where he got a degree in hydraulic engineering in 1965. From there, he spent, as an AFP report put it, "a long time in some of China's poorest regions, beginning in the northwestern province of Gansu where he worked as an engineer and set about ascending the Communist Party ladder."

If you've read Han Jin's novel "Waiting," a very insightful love story about a doctor who wants to divorce his wife and marry a fellow worker, which brings an entire cosmology of complications—ideological, political, personal—you'll have an idea of the quiet joys and epic deprivations that sojourn in the "poorest regions" brings. The setting, quite incidentally, is the same, the 1960s, though the profession is different, the novel's characters being medical workers.

That detail about Hu's beginnings is significant in light of one thing. We've always thought, or labored under the illusion, that all it takes to get ahead in life, particularly internationally or in the global community of nations, is to put on a suit-or gown—and talk about anti-terrorism, preferably with an American accent. I am sure some of the Chinese officials speak with an American accent (I have heard them do, although most speak English with a clipped British one) and I am sure they talk about anti-terrorism every now and then. But that is not all they do.

Certainly, the people who wear those suits are familiar not only with the things that are happening in Washington, London, Paris, Berlin and the other great cities of the West. Indeed, they are familiar not only with the things that are happening in Beijing, Shanghai, Canton, Hong Kong and the other great cities of China. They are familiar with the things that are happening in the barren steppes of the north and inundated plains of the south. They've been there.

There is a reason for their drive and confidence. It does not come merely from wearing suits, whipping out tiny cell phones, and hammering away at state-of-the art laptops. It comes from a sense of capability, from knowing where one is coming from, from knowing where one belongs. The cosmopolitanism doesn't come from the attitude that one can always hustle one's way though life with bluster and *postura*, it comes from having soiled one's hands with the dirt of the earth and the grime of an engine. How many Filipino leaders, in both the public and private sectors, can claim to have done that? How many Filipino leaders, from both the public and private sectors, have served the people in that awesomely literal sense?

Is it a wonder that when they talk these days, the world sits up and listens?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Licad brings her music to Cagayan Valley

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

FOR THOSE who think nothing much is happening in this country, think again. Cecile Licad, who has been described by an American music critic as "one of the great flaming talents that comes along once or two times in every generation," will play in a special St. Cecilia's Day concert this Thursday, Nov. 21, at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's University in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. This concert of Licad, who was named after St. Cecilia, the patroness of music, comes in the wake of her performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra last night. For the Cagayan concert, a grand piano will be brought all the way from Manila, courtesy of the Tuguegarao City government. "It's a great honor to finally hear her in Cagayan," says Mayor Randolph Ting.

* * *

It's wonderful that our provinces are perking up to classical music, and for this score we should salute the pioneering effort of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes to bring their kind of music to the countryside over the last two years and at their own expense.

Licad's Tuguegarao repertoire includes Schubert's Impromptu in F Minor, Liszt's Two Legends of St. Francis, Liszt-Busoni's Mephisto Waltz, Chopin's Fantaisie in F Minor, Two Nocturnes Op. 48 and Scherzo No. 1 in B Minor. News about her concert, which was arranged by INQUIRER contributor Pablo Tariman, has greatly excited the people of Cagayan Valley. Many are planning to travel from various towns to hear Licad. For inquiries, call St. Paul's University at (078) 8441863 loc. 143 or 0918-7376901. Orchids to Pablo.

* * *

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, in his latest Bulletin column, wrote that on his recent trip to Berlin, he was "mildly surprised" when the German officials brought up the issue of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 whose construction was funded by a German company to the tune of $500 million. Ople said the Germans "could not understand why this splendid project, a show window of Philippine-German economic cooperation, in which the Philippines has not invested a single taxpayer's peso, should be hobbled by so many difficulties. There was no mistaking the sense of hurt in their voices."

* * *

I hope that President Macapagal-Arroyo will listen to her premier Cabinet official, who had stressed to the Germans that GMA would honor the sanctity of contracts and open the airport on Dec. 15. Let's hope so, but it seems that a powerful clique of lawyers and technocrats with connections to Malacañang is bent on thwarting that schedule to force Piatco into default. Ople noted that the intervention was bad, for just when the Terminal 3 project was almost complete, "who would come into the picture but some government officials who wanted the government to take over in collusion with other envious entrepreneurs."

He deplored this "recognizable national syndrome" operating in a political fight or a public bidding, wherein "the losers gang up on the winners and engage in passionate and perpetual disputations to avenge themselves." He hit the nail on the head. Airport sources say that among those moving to derail the operation is a company engaged in airport services, which was shunted aside when Piatco won the contract. Now it wants to muscle its way into Terminal 3.

* * *

Ople also urged GMA to "stop vacillating" about Piatco's invitation to grace the opening. "She deserves to be there and put the whole world on notice that the Filipino people are capable of building an international terminal that can match the best and the most advanced in other countries." Unfortunately, even at this late stage nobody knows what will happen to Terminal 3. Will it open as scheduled? Will it be taken over by the government? The administration has said it will renegotiate certain "onerous" provisions with Piatco, but from what I hear, there has been no serious moves in this direction. Meanwhile demolition squads are hitting in the media the "monopoly" at Terminal 3. But is there ever a BOT contractor that would sink $500 million without getting what Cheng Yong calls an "exclusivity" agreement?

* * *

Speaking of vacillation, GMA should either cut short all talk about a Cabinet revamp or do it, and not leave her Cabinet secretaries twisting in the wind. The ill effects are telling. The papers said reports of an impending Cabinet revamp here shook the international market, forcing the government to consider scrapping its planned $500-million bond offering as cancellations of orders came in. The foreign fund managers were specially affected by talk about the exit of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who enjoys their confidence. The administration played into the hands of certain unthinking lawmakers, especially in the opposition, who agitated for a revamp, instead of nipping it in the bud.

* * *

Two graduates of the FEU Medical School have shown how to return to the community the blessings showered on them. Every Nov. 19 for the past 33 years, Doctors Erlinda de G. L. Luna, a fellow in family medicine, and Marilou Rosal, a pediatrician, observe the anniversary of their community clinic in Roxas District, Quezon City, by conducting free consultations with free medicines. Practically the entire indigent community there descends on them on this day, forcing the local authorities to reroute traffic. But all year round their clinic is open to the needy, and they regularly organize outreach clinics to disaster areas. Her track record won for Dr. Luna an award in 1999 as one of the Ten Outstanding Physicians in Community Service. May her tribe increase.

Abstinence or information?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NEW Miss America Erika Harold has gotten the ire of the pageant organizers by insisting on promoting sexual abstinence among American teens during her reign, a news item says. At the same time, she has become the poster girl of conservatives, with the head of the conservative group Concerned Women for America accusing the pageant of silencing Harold "for her virtue."

A further reading shows the controversy was not so much about sex as about contracts. It seems that when she joined the Miss Illinois pageant, Harold signed an agreement in which she agreed to adopt a youth violence platform in the event she won the state contest. But once she put on the Miss America crown, Harold told organizers she planned to talk about chastity and was told not to. But, appearing at the National Press Club, the newly minted America's Advocate of Abstinence proclaimed: "I will not be bullied."

Frankly, I don't see why we should even be interested in this story. It's not as if Harold's advocacy would impact, in one way or another, on the sexual behavior of American adolescents, or on teen violence, for that matter.

But the dispute between Harold and the Miss America organization illustrates what's been called "the ongoing and sometimes contentious debate over sex-education classes in public schools" in the United States. Richard Trubo, in a WebMD feature (my.webmd.com), says "parents and educators are taking sides on whether schools should concentrate solely on an 'abstinence-only' message, or whether they should also be educating teenagers about contraceptive options and how to protect themselves from pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)."

* * *

IN 1988, reports Trubo, only 2 percent of sex education teachers reported that they taught abstinence "as the only option for preventing pregnancy and STDs." But today, about 35 percent of US school districts have adopted abstinence-only curricula, with another 58 percent teaching more comprehensive classes, called "abstinence-plus" programs, that "encourage young people to wait to have sex, but if they do become sexually active to use contraception and practice safe sex."

The issue has produced political ramifications in the United States. The Bush administration has aligned itself with the abstinence-only proponents, "seeking increased congressional funding for sex education that focuses solely on refraining from sex until marriage." Meantime, the Centers for Disease Control has "quietly" removed from its website "certain information about condom use that described ways that sexually active people could reduce their health and pregnancy risks."

Trubo says critics of the CDC decision "argue that, without contraceptive information, young people are being put in jeopardy." He quotes Marcela Howell, public affairs director of Advocates for Youth, who refers to research showing that when adolescents have taken "virginity pledges" as part of sex-education programs—but then eventually break those pledges and become sexually active—they are more likely to engage in high-risk behaviors. "These young people are more at risk of having unprotected sex because they don't have information about contraception, or they have been told that condoms don't work so they feel they shouldn't use them."

* * *

ADDING fuel to the fire of the debate are findings that in the last decade, the number of American teenagers reporting to have had or to be having sex declined by 16 percent.

Both the abstinence-only and the abstinence-plus (or even the no-mention-of-abstinence) camps claim credit for this development. Howell, however, notes that "this decline started long before the abstinence-only programs were being funded by the government and were really being pushed." Instead, she claims that the decline in teenage sex "has come from comprehensive sex education. Young people are getting more information and using contraception better."

David Landry of the Alan Guttmacher Institute agrees, pointing to a strong trend toward rising condom use. "Young people, beginning with their first sexual experience, are much more likely to use contraception today, and most of that increase has been in condom use," he says. "So the youth are getting the message to use contraception the first time they have sex, and to continue using it."

* * *

THAT'S in the United States. In the Philippines, I would wager that "abstinence-only" would be the prevailing trend among sex-education curricula, the predominant message when it came to pre-marital sex from parents, teachers, church and religious authorities down through several generations.

Doubtless, as conservatives contend in the United States, authority-figures here believe mixing information on contraception and protection along with abstinence messages only serve to confuse young people. But the way I see it, to educate young people about sex and relationships without telling them about ways to protect themselves is like teaching them to drive without giving them information on trouble-shooting and car maintenance.

But Filipino guardians of morality want to go even further than just preaching abstinence. They have also made it much more difficult for young people—as well as adults—to access contraception, from convincing supermarkets and drug stores to remove condoms from check-out counters, to having other contraceptive methods like pills and the IUD declared abortifacient and thus illegal. Perhaps they believe that if you have sex—planned, unplanned or forced—then you should be compelled to live with the consequences, including an unwanted pregnancy and/or a disease. How Christian!

Then and now

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FEEL reassured, you're not alone in wondering why this country's development never got off the ground. There was Evaristo Romero in 1887 asking the same question. As a matter of fact the man had a whole booklet, "Bases de Colonizacion," published in a printing press on 20 Carriedo, Santa Cruz, Manila, regarding the question. Needless to say the observations weren't much different than those being made today.

The capital, he says, is where the authorities reside and where the centers of education, mercantile establishments and industries are centralized and located. Thus, Manila reveals a state of civilization superior to the provinces.

Five kilometers going north, using bamboo rafts, you passed certain rivers and although you could see immense fields planted to sugar cane and rice, you don't notice any great movements on the roads. The streets are little traversed especially during the rainy season: badly dressed travelers, rough carriages with two wheels (*carromatas*) pulled by thin, malnourished horses, one or another cart yoked to a heavy carabao. This is the sad perspective presented to the voyager until the Caraballo Mountain where the path becomes dangerous (due one imagines both to the conditions of the road and lurking bandits).

In the east after Laguna de Bay and Mount Balete, you find rough lanes and little cultivated fields until San Narciso where you cross to the center of Ragay up to the port of Pasacao in Camarines Sur where, as in the north, you find bad roads, bad communication and little agricultural movement.

In the south, with the exception of inhabited ports like those in Iloilo and Leyte, there is no great economic movement, although in Negros the cultivation of sugar cane has been greatly encouraged. It should be noted and taken into account that even if the government had recommended at different periods the planting of certain products, these measures are not effective due to the lack of cooperation from local officials. Hemp, linen or flax and silk worms do not figure in the scales as export products. Abaca, sugar and coffee take up a major portion. The abaca due to the zeal of certain local officials who encourage its cultivation; the sugar and coffee due to the liberalized exportation; and the traffic in rice and palay due to the royal decree of April 21, 1856. But ever since the French established themselves in Saigon, the Chinese market of rice from Cochin-China began to make inroads into the trade because it was cheaper.

While private enterprise may do more for certain products than the government, some industries, unknown to its inhabitants in backward colonies, are better developed in government hands such as the production of indigo. Some of the measures recommended are lowering land prices, encouraging the migration outside the city and allowing the buying of land without limitation to individual companies and societies, installing railroad lines in Luzon and Panay, opening roads in other provinces and districts, establishing an agricultural bank that would provide funds with modest interest, and tax exemptions for two or three years. (If this sounds familiar it's probably because you've been reading about the same subject and the same recommendations for decades. Perhaps there's a contagious disease that renders people deaf, dumb and blind upon entering government service.)

Here are selected observations on some provinces:

Bulacan: The towns of Malolos and Baliuag produce sugar and the rest rice. The other towns are backwards.

Pampanga: Very well developed especially with sugar cane.

Tarlac: Many uncultivated land.

Pangasinan: Well populated and productive, especially in rice. It has improved ever since the opening of the Dagupan port and even more with the opening of the railroad.

Nueva Ecija: The lower provinces are on the road to progress but the upper provinces are underpopulated. It needs immigration and reduction of the Igorots that prey on the upper provinces.

Abra, Benguet and Nueva Vizcaya: In dire need of good roads and security.

Isabela and Cagayan: It is common knowledge that they have land planted to tobacco of excellent quality but this could be even better if a road were opened through the mountains to Ilocos.

Distrito de la Infanta: Also poor due to lack of roads to Laguna de Bay; one has to cross five leagues of forests to get there.

Tayabas: It produces coconut oil, cacao, coffee, lumber for construction urban and naval. It needs a good road to connect it to Laguna de Bay and a port with access to the Pacific from which it can also communicate with Camarines Sur and Albay.

Camarines Sur: It produces much rice and abaca. It would prosper if a canal could be built from Pasacao to Pamplona so that boats could reach Nueva Caceres.

Islas Catanduanes: It produces abaca and is well populated. It could progress if it had proper jurisdiction or an independent administration.

Negros: More extensive than Cebu but underpopulated. In the past 20 years, it has increased its production of sugar.

Cebu: A beautiful island and very populous. Produces abaca, corn and rice in great quantities, and enough sugar but less than Iloilo.

Bohol: Located between Cebu and Leyte and well populated but poor. Its inhabitants migrate due to lack of opportunities.

At the crossroads

YOUNG BLOOD

Katerina Canieso Doronila, M.D.

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

CROSSROADS always present a dilemma to the traveler. Should one take the road on the right or the left? What will happen if one makes the wrong decision and ends up lost?

After graduating from medical school two years ago, I was faced with the exact same dilemma. While some of my classmates knew years before graduation what they wanted to do with themselves after medical school, i.e. go straight into residency or practice in their hometown, I felt like I was floating. There seemed to be a lot of opportunities for doctors, yet at the same time everything was nebulous. One thing I was sure of: I did not want to go straight into residency training. After about 20 years of schooling I felt that there was a lot more to experience out there in the "real world," outside the confines of the classroom and hospital.

So after I had passed the medical board exam when the opportunity came to join a research team commissioned by the Asian Development Bank to study the decentralization of the Philippine public school system, I eagerly applied. Under a sub-study of this research project, we were tasked to assess the impact of the health-care delivery system in public elementary schools and to design an alternative method of health-care delivery to over 14 million children. It seemed like a tall order for someone who was fresh out of medical school, but I wanted the challenge and the chance to go around the different provinces.

And see the "real world" I did. The research entailed visiting 38 elementary and high schools in 14 provinces distributed over varied landscapes. We went to island towns, mountain towns, towns that could only be reached by motorcycle or by taking a small motorized banca out in the Pacific Ocean. We met and talked with school administrators, school and municipal health personnel, village health workers, and the children themselves. Everywhere we went we heard the same story. They needed vaccines, medicines and facilities which were not quite available, but they had to make do with what the government could provide.

Having lived in the city all my life, I was not quite prepared to see so much poverty and misery. There was this town where schistosomiasis was endemic. The disease had already claimed the lives of two children during that year. In another place, a school sat right by a dump that had grown so big it looked like a mountain. About 78 percent of the students in that school suffered from moderate and severe malnutrition. Other schools had not seen even the shadow of a doctor for years.

How could anyone solve problems of such huge proportions? I asked myself.

After seeing the situation on the ground, we proceeded to the second part of the study which was to address these problems by designing an alternative system of delivering health care. Using the primary health care approach, we proposed a community-based health-care delivery system where the school, parents, teachers, the community through its local government unit and the rural health unit, share the costs and contribute financial and other resources to improve and maintain the health of the children. The Department of Education is now using our study as a basis for instituting reforms in this sector.

After seeing first-hand the need for doctors in the rural areas, I felt that I wanted to be part of the solution. I applied for a position with the Department of Health's Doctors to the Barrios Program. Conceived in 1993 by Dr. Juan Flavier, the program seeks to address the severe shortage of doctors in depressed and underserved rural areas.

I was one of two municipal health officers in Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, where I had to take care of more than half of its 83,000 population scattered in mountainous villages. I headed a staff of 167 health personnel composed of nurses, midwives, sanitation inspectors and village health workers. It was a challenge unlike any other. I had to be a doctor, teacher, epidemiologist, planner, trainer, horseback rider, mountain climber and occasional medico-legal practitioner, all rolled into one. I had to travel over difficult terrain to visit far-flung villages and deliver medical services.

My stay in the community was not a bed of roses. I had to make a lot of adjustments. I was living in a place with the barest of essentials, away for the first time from my family and everything that was familiar, and trying to meet the expectations of a staff most of whom were much older than I was.

After seeing first-hand a number of cases of severe malnutrition among children, I helped to implement a comprehensive agriculture, health, nutrition and education program spearheaded by the local government and the University of the Philippines.

There were times when even I doubted the wisdom of my decision to take on that job. But when I saw the appreciation in the eyes of my patients and the smiles of the village health workers whom I trained, I knew that I had made the right decision to devote one year of my life to serve the people who put me through college and medical school. After all, the University of the Philippines is a public institution funded by people's taxes and charging minimal tuition.

Some of my former classmates who are now in their second year of residency training ask me if I feel that I had wasted those two years after medical school. Did I take the wrong road?

I tell them no. I spent those years doing something meaningful not only to myself but also to those people who needed my services most. And it made me realize that now is the best time to complement my experience in public health with specialized clinical training.

There is a line in this movie where a mother was trying to persuade her son to leave Kenya and go to Stanford University for his studies. "You have to leave so that you can come back," she told him. "You have to study so that you can help this country."

That is exactly the reason I have decided to seek further training in a land halfway across the globe from home. So that I will be able to get the best possible training and be of better service to my people when I come home.

Katerina Canieso Doronila, 28, is a graduate of the University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital.

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Compensation for damage to vehicles

CAN motorists, who use Metro Manila's main thoroughfares, which are so poorly maintained that the risks of damage to one's vehicle are a daily reality, get justice?

One cannot breeze through Edsa, for example, without hitting a pothole, a crack or some other kind of deformity on the road, unless he has memorized their locations.

I live in the southern sector and I often travel along the South Super Highway or the service roads. Not only do you have to be a defensive driver against buses but you also have to be on the lookout for potholes. Some may have even been patched up with asphalt, but usually that's all the repair made, and then the hole is replaced by a bulge on the road.

I am no longer asking who should be responsible for the "quality" repairs of these roads (that can be easily identified) but if motorists can get monetary compensation for the damage caused by bad roads to their vehicles. The damage may not be immediately evident but the daily wear and tear add up until the life span of a vehicle is drastically shortened.

Can we have justice for motorists and their vehicles which are damaged by traveling on poorly maintained roads in the metropolis?

—JOSE RIZALDY A. VILLANUEVA,
ITD project supervisor,
Prudentialife Plans Inc.,
6/F Basic Petroleum Bldg.,
104 C. Palanca Jr. St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

In two places at one time?

I WAS out of the country from Sept. 30 to Nov. 8, 2002. I am able to look at some of the INQUIRER's back issues only now.

In her column of Oct. 28, 2002, my good friend Belinda Olivares-Cunanan reported seeing me at Secretary Raul Roco's "birthday-cum-launch for 2004" in his Antipolo farm on Oct. 26, 2002. "Save for former Sen. Francisco Tatad, I didn't see any major opposition leader there," Bel wrote. "Clearly the opposition does not know how to treat Roco."

I would have been happy to wish my neighbor and former colleague a successful launch. But we have not spoken to each other since Edsa 2. As for Bel, the last time I saw her was at an Italian dinner hosted by Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier, our gracious ambassador to Italy, for some Filipino pilgrims who had come for the Oct. 6 canonization of St. Josemaria, the founder of Opus Dei, in Rome.

On the day Bel was seeing me in Antipolo, I was in Toronto, Canada, addressing an international pro-life conference. As some of those who had heard me there may be following Bel's column regularly on-line, I have to assure them that not even my fondness for Harry Potter has endowed me the power of bi-location.

—FRANCISCO S. TATAD,
Suite 1004, Richmond Plaza,
Lourdes Road corner San Miguel
Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Tall RP quintet can beat Asia's best

WE are a basketball-crazy nation, and many were disappointed with the performance of our team in the last Asian Games. However, there is still the Asian qualifying rounds for the World Basketball Conference (WBC) next year and we should join this tournament. But this time we should send a much taller and stronger team that could defeat the top teams like South Korea, Kazakhstan, Japan and even China. The two top Asian teams go to the WBC championships and also qualify for the Olympics.

This will cost a lot of money and it would be unfair to expect the private firms that compose the PBA to finance the national team. The government, through one of its entities like the cash-rich Pagcor, could finance the team.

Our best players are the PBA players who are professionals and easily make around P500,000 a month. If selected for the national team, they should be allowed to still play for their PBA teams, like those from China, South Korea, Japan, etc. who play for different teams in their professional leagues and even in the NBA. They could practice twice a week with the national team.

Since these players are professionals and play for a living, Pagcor should give them a P200,000 allowance a month as additional incentive once they are selected and practice with the national team. Pagcor should also provide them with insurance in case they get injured while playing for the national team.

I am sure with all these incentives, all the top players of the PBA will be lining up to join the national team, unlike in the last Asiad, when many top players begged off from joining the national team.

We used to play in the Olympics and the WBC Championships, but our players then were small and we were like dwarfs in the land of the giants. Now we have a lot of tall, good players, and we can be at par with even the big European and South American teams in height. Our people will be thrilled to see our tall team slugging it out on an even basis with the other teams in the WBC Championship and the Olympics.

This will also benefit the PBA, which is experiencing both dwindling attendance and even TV viewership. The success of our national team abroad will rekindle interest in the PBA.

—RICO XERES,
Eisenhower Street,
Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro Manila

Same chicken, higher price

I AGREE with Jason Doplito who wrote "War of the chickens." I would like to confess that when we were younger, we also enjoyed munching on "Crispy-licious," "Juicy-licious" Chikenjoy and the "not-so-ordinary" fried chicken of McDonald's. I still enjoy them up to now, but why do they have to alter it into something more pricey, if it's the same-tasting fried chicken with some barbecue sauce on the side? Wouldn't it be better to satisfy the person's hunger and at the same time be kind to his wallet?

They should consider the spending capacity of most of the people and the never-ending pollution problem that we have. I hope that they will think of what is beneficial, not just for their company, but also for the people and the country as well.

To the INQUIRER and the people who have brought up and lived up to its name, more power to you all!

—MARGARET TAN LIMQUECO,
625-A Piña Ave.,
Santa Mesa, Metro Manila

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Kidnapping complaint under investigation

THIS has reference to the news item published in the INQUIRER last Nov. 9, 2002, titled "WPD cops kidnapped 6 in 1 month."

Based on records, no kidnapping incident was reported in the City of Manila since I assumed office as director of the Western Police District last July 29.

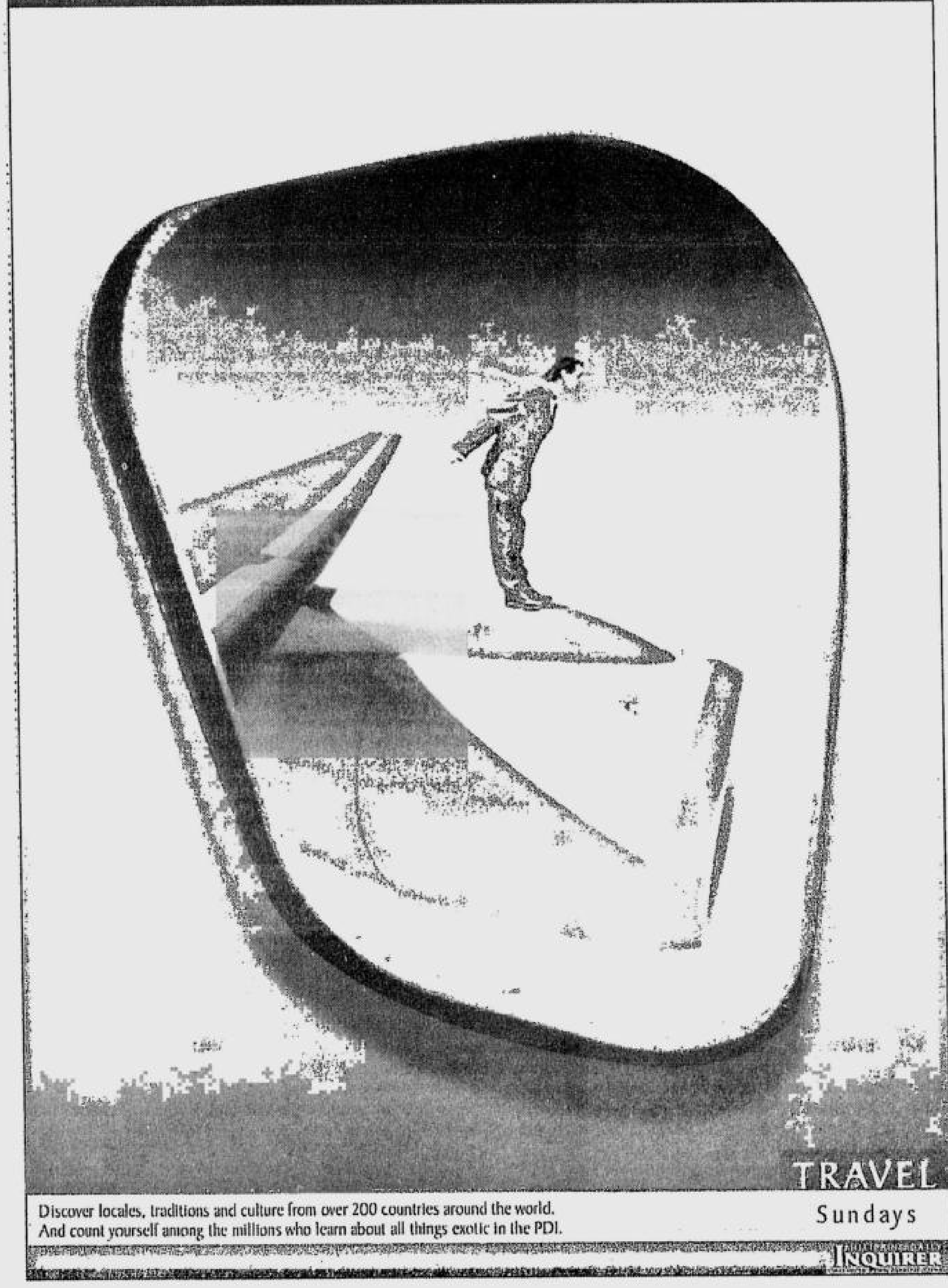
With regard to the reported extortion allegedly committed by members of the DIID, WPD in which the alleged victim was Jimmy Ong, Manila Mayor Jose L. Atienza Jr. and I are jointly investigating the report. This is notwithstanding the fact that no formal complaint was filed against the WPD policemen.

However, we learned from the news item that the alleged victim personally reported and filed his complaint at the PNP National Headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City. We welcome and support this move. Moreover, we are encouraging other victims and witnesses to come out in the open so that justice will prevail.

Please be assured that the city government and the leadership of the WPD will not tolerate wrongdoing on the part of our personnel.

—PEDRO ESTRELLA BULAONG,
police senior superintendent
and district director,
Western Police District, UN
Avenue, Ermita, Manila

If your body can't go on a vacation, let your mind take the trip.



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The color of male infidelity

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MAYBE it's midlife, the way my friends and I seem to be talking a lot, lately, about the infidelities in our lives, how they hit you and how one might try to cope with the catastrophes.

It's not a Pinoy thing, considering much of the infidelity talk has been coming not only from Filipino friends but also from Americans, British, Dutch, our exchanges over e-mail or face to face when we run into each other in conferences, over breakfast or unhappy happy hours.

Maybe the cliché's right about misery loving company and let's all feel better by feeling worse together. Translation of all that psycho-babble: don't you feel better when you hear someone describing how she refers to the third party with a stream of invectives and two other women going, "Uy, that's exactly how I call her (or, lately, him) too."

We're raised to be kind, to be "Christian" (I avoided the term deliberately because there's chauvinism in thinking only Christians can be kind), but let's face it, there are times when being kind can be unhealthy. The studies show that the guys with explosive tempers live on forever, while the "*mabait*" ones are driven to the grave early, carrying with them all the pent-up resentment.

Fortunately in this day and age, many women aren't about to play the martyr role. I'm amazed at how several of my friends can spit out their scorn and vitriol rather graphically: "I whacked him 'there' and asked him how he could put his 'it' in her; he could put it in me."

What's so perplexing though is the inability of men to understand all this, many reacting to their wives' or girlfriends' (or boyfriends') tears: "But there was nothing in that relationship. It was a fling. It's you I love. You're still my No. 1."

Men can't seem to get it into their scrotally based brains that statements like that worsen matters. Suddenly, love and intimacy are transformed into feelings of defilement and violation. And yes, there are proprietary notions too. Many partners do feel, appropriately I think, that your "it" is my "it" and you have no business going into time-sharing it. Meaning I don't want to be your No. 1. I have to be your one and only.

Then there's the pain from the fallout, which like Hiroshima and Nagasaki seems to go on for decades. Months after a partner confesses to infidelity, there will be little revelations, little discoveries of unconfessed deceit. A few months after her partner had confessed to infidelity, one of my women friends happened to stumble on an old cell-phone bill and, working on a hunch combined with dread, reviewed the itemized calls and realized that there was a whole week when her partner had been calling her, describing *durian* and Davao's many wonders when in fact, as the cell-phone bill now revealed, he was in Manila.

I think the most depressing stories around male infidelity are the accounts about finding out, which are usually long-winded stories about grappling with suspicions over several months, even years, the many late office meetings and text messages beeping away. Others talk about how the suspicions built up as they sense changes in their partners' bodies, especially in the more intimate moments, what with the awkwardness and distance that come with guilt.

Even more poignant are the stories from those who had no suspicions of any kind about their partners until one day, there's a moment, literally a moment, when they know with all the certainty in the world. One friend tells me how she had been biking in the park one day with her husband, and passed a woman, also on a bike. In one fleeting moment, she had caught the facial reactions on her husband's face, and that of the woman and, like thunder striking down St. Paul, she knew she had uncovered an extramarital affair.

All the talk about knowing takes a therapeutic turn as people share their detection secrets. Filipinos seem to have the largest arsenal for this difficult task, many of which, Pinoy-style, center on smelling. Clothes are often a give-away, reeking of perfume, or smoke, beer, or all of the above. Others literally sniff for the body of evidence, alarm signals flying up if the mister smells too good, too *mabango*, which means he showered, probably with someone, or, as the imagination runs wild, with several someones.

Maybe we're being too low-tech here. A BBC news dispatch just in reports that (where else but in Japan?) new inventions are available to boost sexual forensics. There's "S-check," an aerosol you spray on your partner's underwear when he stumbles home. If there are "S" stains, the spray reacts to produce an accusing green color. The catch here is the $350 for a set of two cans.

Another product, price not given, has been dubbed the "infidelity detective cream." You say goodbye to honey in the morning, discreetly rubbing the cream into his back. If he dares shower during the day, presumably after some tryst, the gel reacts with the water to create a telltale and, I hope, excruciatingly stinging blister. Alternatively, the manufacturers say you can rub it into his socks. If he has it off more than 15 minutes, there's a chemical reaction that turns the socks' color, again into a shocking green.

A British forensics expert interviewed about the products jokes by asking what happens if the wretched bloke goes off to the gym, where he has to take the socks off and shower. A friend of mine protests, "What if I take a siesta in the afternoon?" Which takes me to lesson 63 from all this: Men will never run out of alibis, grinning greenly all the way to hell and back.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Pope still hopeful of coming but docs won't let him

By Armand Nocum

POPE John Paul II continues to pine for the millions of Filipino Catholics who twice gave him a rousing welcome when he visited the country.

An organizer of the Fourth World Meeting of Families (FWMF) said that, apparently, only the Vatican doctors stand in the way of the Pope's wish to attend the major gathering of families here in January.

"The Pope really wants to come, but the obstacle are his doctors," said Henrietta de Villa, former ambassador to Rome and now executive secretary of the FWMF.

"The Pope still wants to come, but the official stand is that his coming will not push through," De Villa added.

Too taxing

The Vatican has scuttled plans for the Pope's coming, saying the extreme change of climate from cold to tropical and the over 13-hour journey would be too taxing for the 82-year-old Pontiff, who is suffering from Parkinson's Disease.

De Villa said the Pope relayed his wish to come during a talk with a delegation of Filipino Church officials who attended the Pontifical Council of the Family at the Vatican last month.

"The Pope told (Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates Villegas) 'I will be there,'" she said.

To that, Villegas reportedly answered, "Holy Father, we are waiting for you."

"I will come, I'd like to come," the Pope was said to have replied.

But De Villa said the Philippine Church hierarchy and the delegates to the international meet would not want to pursue the matter, given the Pope's failing health.

"It would not be generous of us to insist on him to come," she said.

Mother Teresa

She said the prospect of a Papal visit would increase, however, should the beatification of Mother Teresa in India push through in January.

"We are all praying for that," she said.

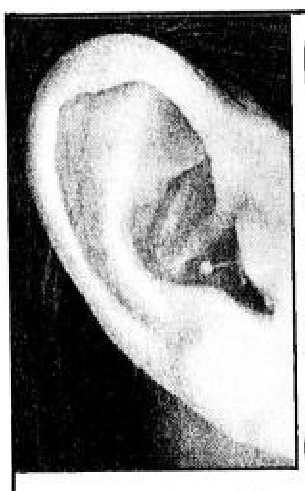
Asked if foreign delegates to the families meet did not fear possible terrorist attacks while in the Philippines, she said some delegates had talked to her about it.

She said she told them no one could ensure anyone's safety anywhere in the world, "but everything would be done to make sure the gathering of families will be trouble-free."

Reminded about the plot to kill the Pope during his last visit here, Mendez said the Pope is unfazed by such risks.

"He is an evangelizer and a missionary, he is not affected by all these threats," she said.

The Pope was here for World Youth Day on Jan. 8, 1995 and again in 1981. In both visits, he was mobbed by hundreds of thousands of people in Asia's only predominantly Catholic country.



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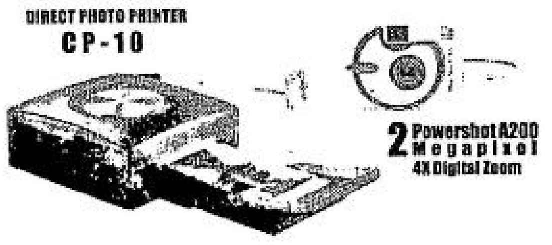

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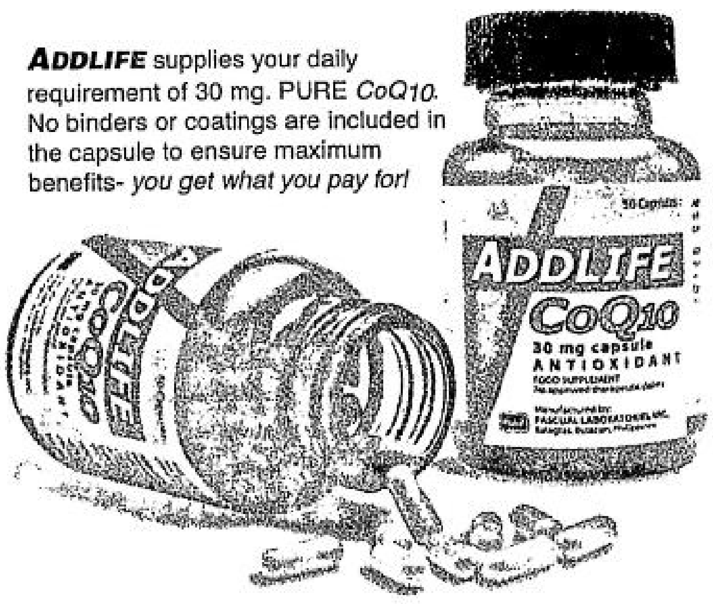

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israeli tanks, helicopters hit Gaza

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Israeli helicopters and tanks struck Gaza City early Monday, targeting a main Palestinian security compound, while hundreds of kilometers away, a security guard foiled an attempt to hijack an Israeli passenger plane.

In the West Bank, soldiers imposed a curfew Monday in a Ramallah neighborhood and searched for a wanted Palestinian, witnesses said, while Israeli officials reportedly mulled a proposal to link Jewish enclaves in Hebron following an ambush Friday that killed 12 soldiers and security guards.

Despite all the violence and a sudden, bitter Israeli election campaign, negotiations continued over a US-European plan to end the Mideast conflict, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press.

In Gaza City, Israeli helicopters fired missiles at the headquarters of Preventive Security, the main official Palestinian force, and tanks and soldiers moved in. Two Palestinian security officers and a TV cameraman working for Reuters news agency were lightly injured, doctors said. No other casualties were reported.

The Army said the offices were used to make weapons. An explosives laboratory, welding equipment, weapons, ammunition and a missile were found in the headquarters, the army said in a release.

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz said the raid showed the "tight connection between the security forces of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian terror groups."

Palestinians fired on the troops and shot missiles against tanks but no soldiers were injured, the Army said.

As tanks moved as far as 4 km into the city of about 300,000, Israeli gunboats opened fire on the shoreline, shelling the area where Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office was. The complex was destroyed in an Israeli attack several months ago.

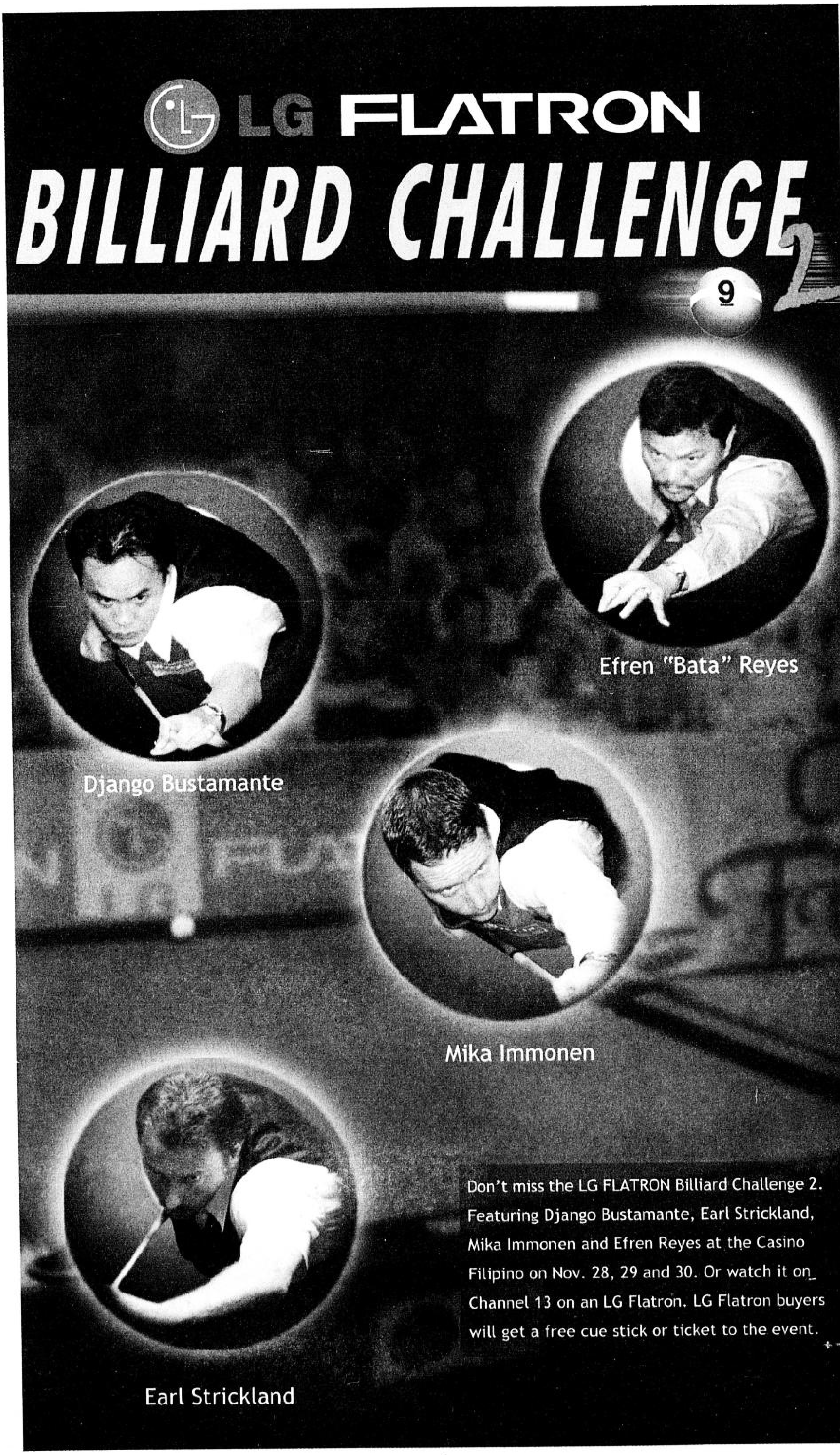
A few hours after the Israeli attack, two missiles were shot toward a Jewish settlement near Gaza City but caused no damage or injuries, the Army said.

The Israeli forces pulled out after more than three hours, leaving several of the 11 buildings in the security compound in ruins. At the main administration building, targeted for the first time in two years of fighting, furniture was smashed and computers destroyed, their parts littering the floor as firefighters fought a blaze nearby.

Meanwhile, Turkish police were interrogating a passenger who officials say tried to hijack an El Al Israel Airlines plane just before it landed in Istanbul with 170 people on board. El Al general manager Amos Shapira said the passenger, an Israeli Arab, "tried to reach the cockpit with what we assume now is a small pocket knife," but was overpowered by security guards.

The Israeli airline is known for its stringent security. Though it is frequently targeted, the last successful attack was decades ago. Shapira said airport authorities would investigate how the passenger managed to board the plane with a knife.

Though serious incidents of violence were occurring every day, and Israel was at the beginning of a fierce campaign toward a general election on Jan. 28, diplomats were still fine-tuning a document aimed at negotiating a settlement to the Israel-Palestinian conflict. *AP*



Don't miss the LG FLATRON Billiard Challenge 2. Featuring Django Bustamante, Earl Strickland, Mika Immonen and Efren Reyes at the Casino Filipino on Nov. 28, 29 and 30. Or watch it on Channel 13 on an LG Flatron. LG Flatron buyers will get a free cue stick or ticket to the event.

WORLDBRIEFS

Venezuela unrest

CARACAS—A bomb exploded early Monday in continued unrest here following the army's takeover of the Caracas police force, which President Hugo Chavez justified as necessary to prevent anarchy. The explosion, which occurred at around midnight near the Globovision television station near the center of town, ignited a fire that destroyed three automobiles. There were no immediate reports of injuries. The blast was the latest chapter in the unrest that has roiled the Venezuelan capital during two days of demonstrations. It came just hours after the Venezuelan National Guard fired tear gas at government opponents as they marched Sunday against the army's takeover of the Caracas police force—which Chavez justified as necessary to prevent anarchy. *AFP*

New powers sought

CANBERRA—The head of Australia's main spy agency called on lawmakers Monday to grant him controversial new powers to detain and question suspected terrorists. Dennis Richardson, director general of the Australian Security Intelligence Organization (ASIO), told a Senate committee that his agency needed the new authority to fight a growing terrorist threat and not because of a "mad, driven" desire for power. Richardson testified as part of a government drive to pass new anti-terrorism laws following last year's Sept. 11 attacks on the United States and last month's bombing in Bali. Civil liberties groups have strongly criticized the proposed ASIO legislation, which would allow the agency to detain and question suspects for 48 hours without the presence of a lawyer and for up to a week without charges. *AFP*

Anti-terror law

ISLAMABAD—A controversial anti-terror law approved by Pakistan's military last month has gone into effect, giving authorities the power to detain suspects for up to a year without charge and to go after the assets of their relatives, officials said Monday. The law was passed by the Cabinet last month with the support of President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, but it did not go into effect until it was officially decreed on Sunday, an official in Pakistan's Law Ministry said. Human rights groups have strongly criticized the law, saying it gives police too much power and will be easy to abuse. At the time it was approved by the Cabinet, however, Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said it would be a powerful new tool in the war on terrorism. *AP*

Suspect grilled

KAMUNTING, Malaysia—FBI agents and US prosecutors interrogated a detained Islamic militant at a Malaysian prison camp Monday about his links to terror suspect Zacarias Moussaoui and the Sept. 11 hijackers. The three-man team arrived in a diplomatic vehicle at the Kamunting prison camp in northern Malaysia and spent about two hours inside before leaving. They did not speak to reporters waiting outside the gates, and had not returned by mid-afternoon, nearly four hours later. The suspect, Yazid Sufaat, and nearly 70 other militant suspects rounded up over the past year and a half are being held without trial at the camp under national security laws. *AP*

Keeping PLA happy

BEIJING—"Long live the Communist Party of China!" So proclaims a banner held aloft by flag-waving soldiers in olive drab. Though aging revolutionary heroes finally withdrew from active politics last week and economic might has replaced Mao Zedong's "barrel of the gun," China's communist leadership is likely to continue doing what it can to keep the 2.5 million strong People's Liberation Army happy—even if it means rattling neighbors with occasional missile tests or talking tough toward Taiwan. The man who replaced 76-year-old President Jiang Zemin as party general secretary during a congress that ended Friday, Vice President Hu Jintao, will be depending on the PLA and paramilitary units to keep China stable as he wrestles with rising crime, massive unemployment and rampant corruption. *AP*

Ex-Italy PM found guilty of murder

ROME—Former Premier Giulio Andreotti—a dominant Italian politician after World War II who served as this nation's leader seven times—was convicted in the 1979 slaying of a muckraking journalist and sentenced to 24 years imprisonment.

An appeals court in Perugia on Sunday overturned an earlier acquittal, and also convicted a mobster now serving time in the United States. Andreotti was expected to appeal the decision.

"I've always believed in justice and I will continue to believe in it. Although this evening, I am struggling to accept something of such absurdity," Andreotti told the Ansa news agency.

Before Sunday's ruling, the 83-year-old senator-for-life had survived numerous controversies and investigations. However, his political downfall came in the 1990s, when his Christian Democratic party was toppled along with much of Italy's political class in corruption scandals.

Sunday's conviction stunned the Italian political world, with parliament members of many leanings describing the decision as "scandalous," "shocking," or "incredible."

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi condemned the ruling and telephoned Andreotti to offer his solidarity, as did the leaders of both houses of parliament, reports said.

The prosecution argued that the Mafia killed Mino Pecorelli at the behest of Andreotti, who allegedly feared that the journalist had dug up compromising information. It has never been explained what Pecorelli purportedly discovered.

Andreotti has maintained that cases against him were false, saying he was targeted by political enemies and mobsters getting even for his crackdowns on organized crime.

In 1999, a Palermo court cleared Andreotti on separate charges of aiding the Mafia.

Aside from Andreotti and convicted mobster Gaetano Badalamenti, all others accused in the Pecorelli case were acquitted Sunday.

Badalamenti, who was tried in absentia in the Pecorelli case, was convicted two decades ago in New York for his role in a drug ring known as the "Pizza Connection." In April, he was also sentenced to life imprisonment in Sicily for ordering the 1978 killing of an anti-crime campaigner, whose local radio program ridiculed and denounced the Mafia.

Badalamenti, serving a term of at least 30 years, is not eligible for parole in the United States until 2014.

A gunman killed the journalist Pecorelli in Rome on March 20, 1979, firing one shot from a pistol fitted with a silencer into his head and three in the back. Pecorelli was heading home at the time from the offices of the magazine he worked at, OP—an Italian acronym for "Political Observer."

Pecorelli was known for politically explosive articles that targeted a range of public figures. Andreotti was a frequent subject, sometimes referred to in print as "The Godfather."

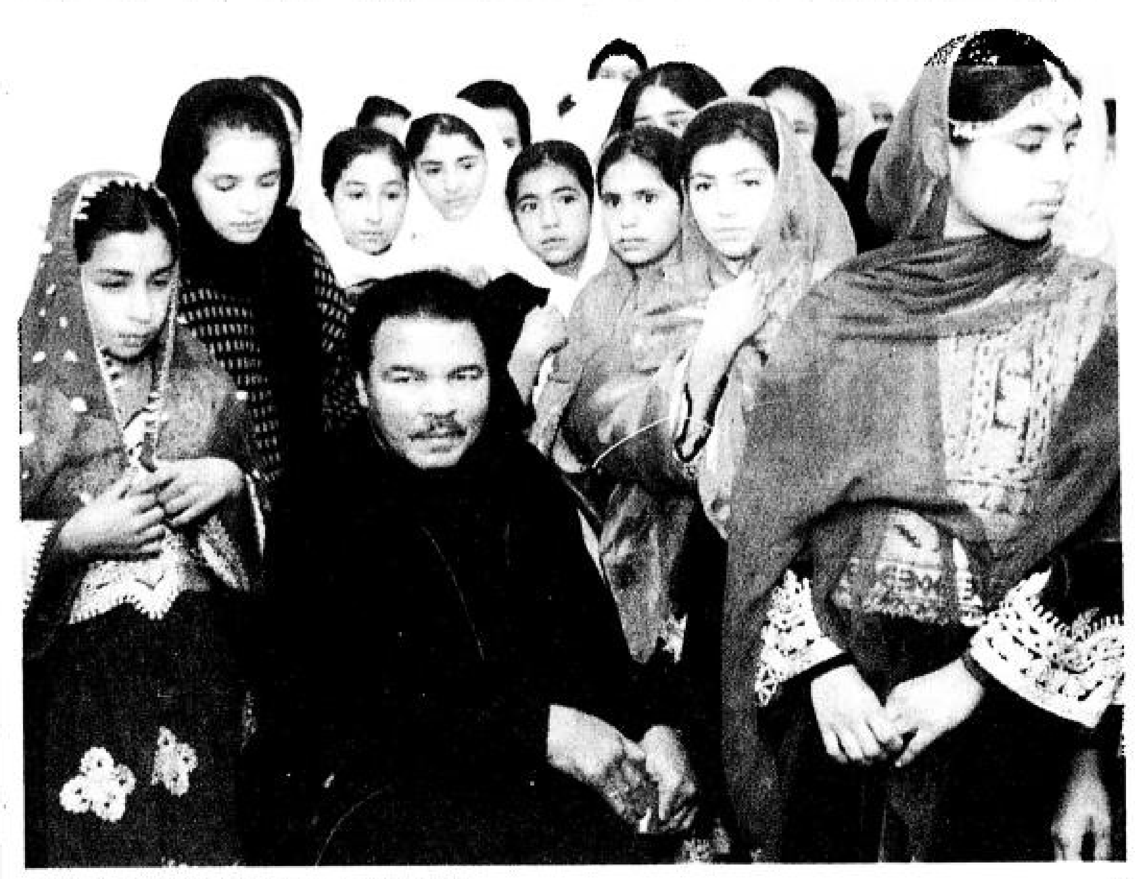
Italian authorities initially looked into other suspects in the case, but won no convictions.

In 1993, Mafia informer Tommaso Buscetta told authorities looking into organized crime that Andreotti and Badalamenti were involved in the Pecorelli case, prompting fresh investigations.

In 1999, a court absolved all the accused in the Pecorelli case. Prosecutors appealed the case, leading to Sunday's decision in Perugia, a hilltown in the Umbria region.

Berlusconi argued that the ruling proved his frequent assertions that judges here were politically biased against conservatives.

"The 24-year sentence imposed on Senator Andreotti is the ultimate stage of a judicial scheme through which politicized sectors of the magistrature have tried to change the course of democratic politics and try to rewrite Italian history," Berlusconi said. *AP*



AP

CHAMPION OF AFGHAN GIRLS

Surrounded by smiling schoolgirls in a makeshift classroom in Afghanistan, legendary boxer Muhammad Ali on Monday takes up the fight for education and aid to the war-shattered country. Ali, a UN peace ambassador, visited the Karte-Sei girls' school in Kabul. "Champion of the world, you are welcome here," said one schoolgirl.

UN inspectors head to Iraq

LARNACA, Cyprus—UN inspectors took off for Iraq on Monday to resume the search for alleged weapons of mass destruction in a mission that could determine whether the Gulf is plunged into a new wat.

Moments before their plane took off, Ewen Buchanan, the chief spokesperson for the inspection team, declared "a new chapter of inspection" was beginning. Chief UN inspector Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, who oversees the International Atomic Energy Agency, made no comment but waved and smiled to reporters at the airport in Cyprus, where their team assembled from around the world before heading to Baghdad.

Buchanan said the equipment loaded Monday onto an L-100 cargo plane with a black "UN" painted on its side included vacuum cleaners "to clear up four years of dust." Inspectors were last in Iraq in 1998.

US President George W. Bush has warned Iraqi President Saddam Hussein that failure to cooperate with the inspectors will bring on an American attack. Saddam faces a three-week deadline to reveal his weapons of mass destruction or provide convincing evidence he no longer has any.

In Iraq Monday, Al-Thawra, the mouthpiece of Saddam's ruling Baath Party, said in a front-page editorial that the previous UN inspection regime had been "an American organization to spy on Iraq," and that it hoped the new team would avoid that trap. *AP*

Confusion over Nokor nuke arms

SEOUL—North Korea sowed confusion with a weekend comment that seemed to confirm for the first time the communist state has nuclear arms, then highlighted another weapons worry with a threat on Monday to restart missile tests.

Analysts in Japan and South Korea, two neighbors working closely with the United States to put pressure on the North to scrap its nuclear ambitions, said on Monday the North's nuclear statement looked more like a linguistic mix-up.

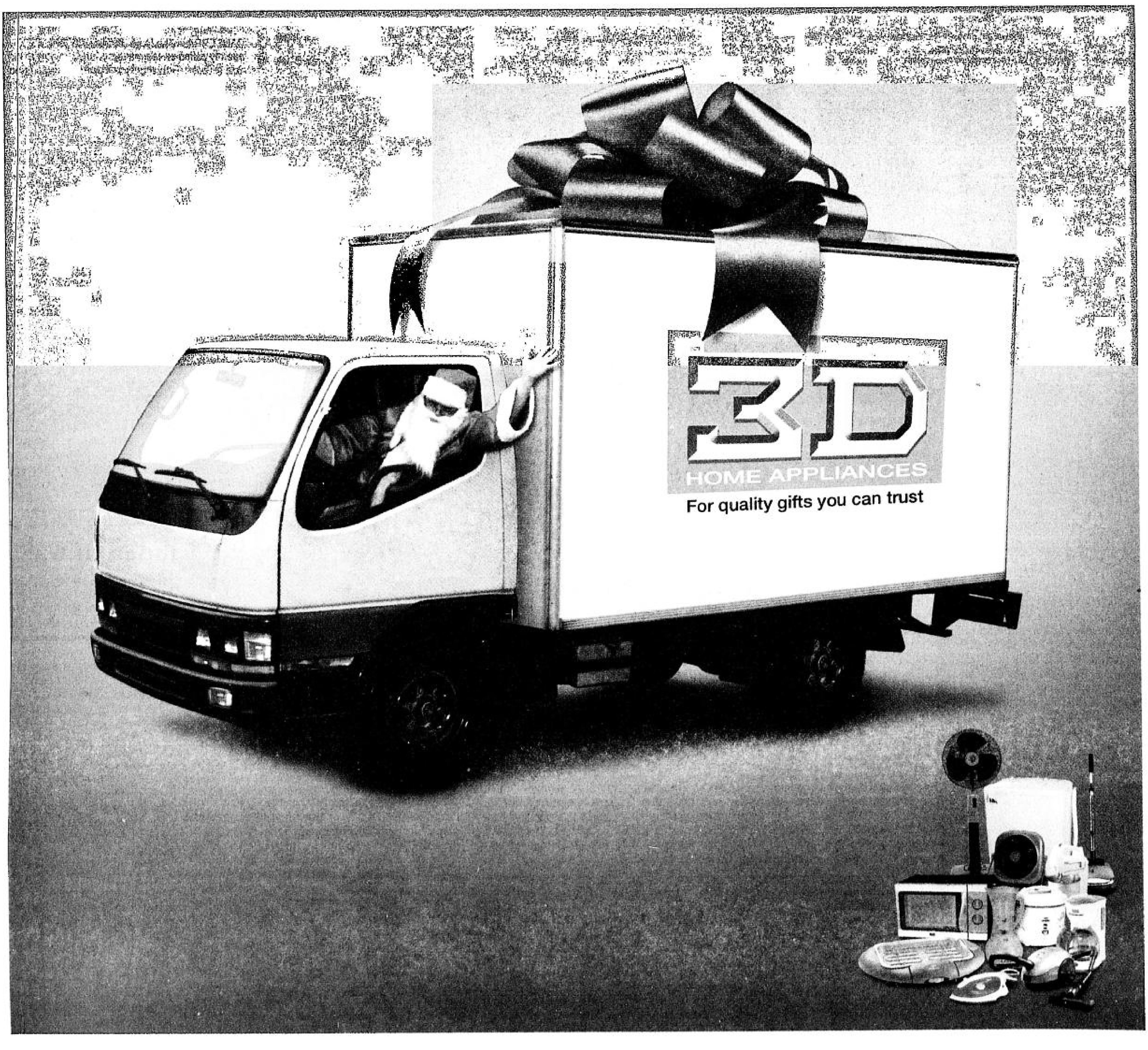
Just one Korean syllable separates North Korea's stock assertion of its right to possess nuclear arms from a declaration it has such weapons—a development that would complicate allied efforts to preempt a new nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula.

On Sunday, Pyongyang Radio said the country "has come to have nuclear and other strong military weapons to deal with increased nuclear threats by the US imperialists," according to Seoul's Yonhap news agency, which monitors North Korean broadcasts.

That statement appeared to go further than Pyongyang's previous remarks it was "entitled to have nuclear weapons" in the face of threats from a US government that has branded North Korea part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

The world's last Cold War flash point went from reconciliation to crisis prevention a month ago when US officials said North Korea had told them it had a uranium enrichment program for arms, violating a landmark 1994 agreement with Washington.

The North has demanded the United States sign a non-aggression pact to defuse the row over enriched uranium, Washington's second nuclear proliferation dispute with Pyongyang in a decade following a crisis over plutonium in the early 1990s. *Reuters*



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Across the **NATION**

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

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c/o Cebu Daily News
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‘Tong-its’ report angers governor who fires gun thrice inside capitol

IBA, Zambales—Provincial government employees have assailed Gov. Vicente Magsaysay for allegedly firing his gun thrice without warning while he was conducting an inspection at the capitol compound last week.

The employees said Magsaysay fired his .45-cal. pistol twice in the air and once in the ground. The third shot almost found its mark in the leg of an employee, the complaining employees said.

The employees, who refused to be identified for fear of reprisal from the governor and his men, said they planned to file charges against the governor for grave misconduct and abuse of authority.

Magsaysay, however, denied that he fired his gun, claiming that what the workers heard were fireworks, not gunshots.

Witnesses told the INQUIRER that someone had informed the governor that a group of capitol employees was playing “tong-its,” a card game, during office hours.

When Magsaysay arrived at the capitol compound at 4 p.m. Tuesday to check the reported gambling by the employees, he found employees installing Christmas lights instead.

Furious that he never caught anybody playing the card game, he fired his gun and almost hit an employee, who was identified only as Zaldy, according to the witnesses.

The noise from the gunshots alarmed the employees as they scampered for safety. “We were shocked when the governor suddenly opened fire. We thought someone got hurt,” an employee said.

Witnesses also assailed Magsaysay for using a firearm to discipline his employees. “With the use of a gun, he wields indefinite power to suppress (the) rights and dignity of the people,” they said.

The employees recovered a spent shell of a .45-cal. pistol from the scene.

They said they did not report the shooting to the police.

Magsaysay told the INQUIRER that there could be children playing with firecrackers near the capitol building. “I don’t have a gun. Why should I bring one during office hours?” he said.

He, however, admitted that he kicked some tables that some employees had used to play cards inside the capitol.

He said he had been conducting regular inspections at the capitol as part of his campaign to rid the provincial government of non-performing employees.

“Employees are expected to work and serve the people and not to loiter, much less gamble during office hours,” he said. *Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MAGSAYSAY

7 dead, 23 injured as jeep plunges into river

OZAMIZ CITY—Seven persons died while at least 23 others were injured when an overloaded passenger utility jeep (PUJ) plunged into a river while negotiating a long descent into a spillway in Barangay Bagong Argao in Molave, Zamboanga del Sur on Sunday afternoon.

The 20-seat PUJ was ferrying home at least 40 passengers from Poblacion Molave when the accident took place.

Molave town mayor Flavio Saniel said it was apparent that the PUJ’s brakes had malfunctioned.

Mary Camarador, one of the surviving passengers, said four of the seven casualties were killed on the spot.

They were identified as Max Rebucio, Andrew Lago, Japeth Palao and Junrey Luna. The names of the other casualties were not immediately available.

Camarador, who was sitting beside the driver, said she started to be alarmed when the PUJ was not slowing down despite the driver’s attempt to apply the brakes.

She told reporters here that she managed to warn her husband, who was then sitting atop the jeep, to prepare for any eventuality.

But Camarador said the PUJ’s driver, Mariano Monton, cautioned her against telling the other passengers to prevent panic.

She said the jeepney was speeding down as the driver struggled to regain control of its descent toward a bend leading to the spillway.

Camarador said the height of the fall was only some two meters but many of the passengers hit boulders.

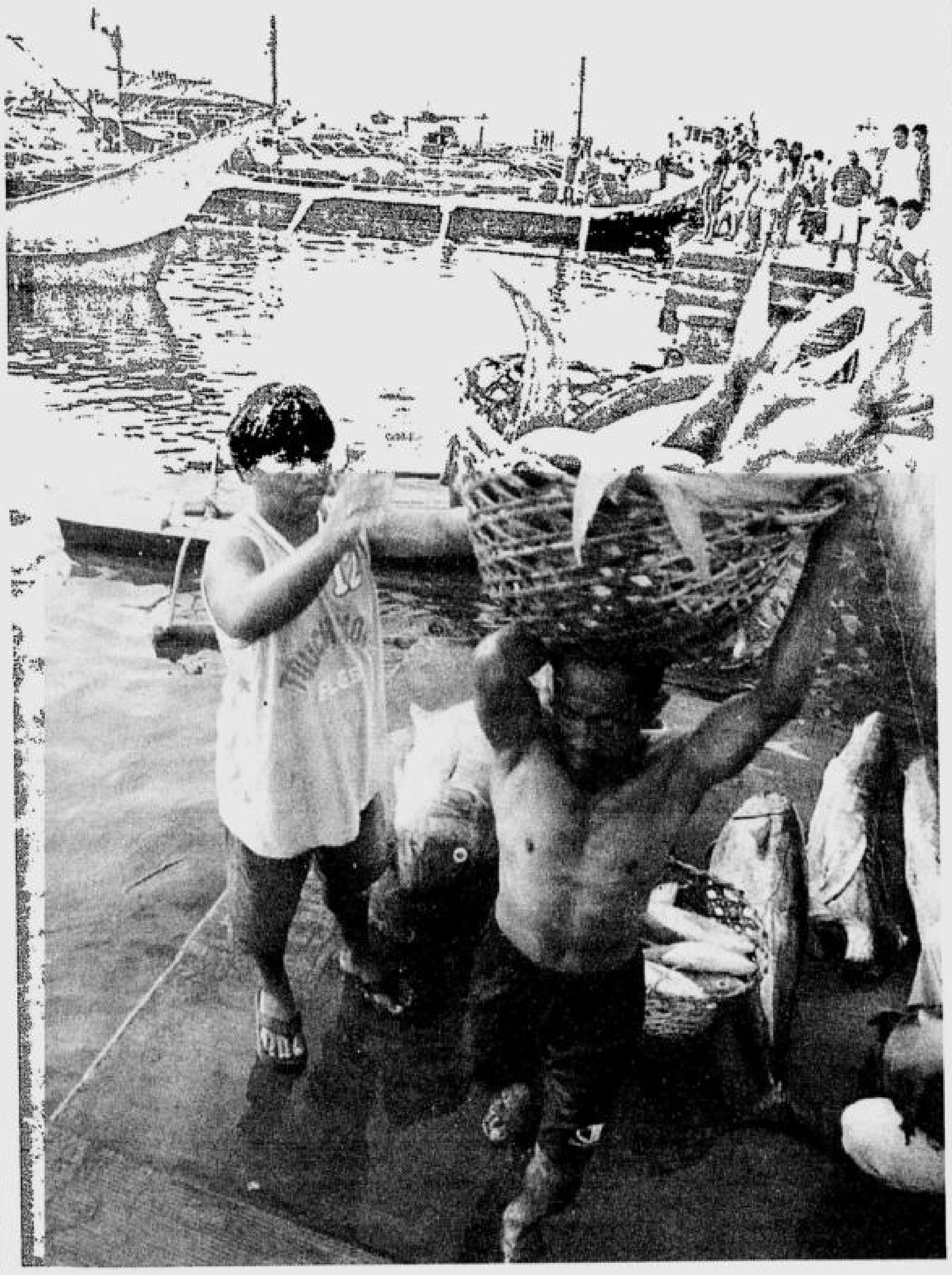
Virgilio Guc-ong, another victim, said he suspected something was wrong “from the sound of its shifting gear every time the driver changes speed.”

After the crash, a militiaman was able to call for help.

Soon, soldiers from a nearby Army camp arrived on board a six-by-six truck and ferried the victims to the hospital.

Saniel has called for aid to bankroll the cost of the victims’ medical expenses.

Still in critical condition at the Mayor Hilarion A. Ramiro Sr. Regional Training and Teaching Hospital here are 13-year old Nelmar Revillas, who suffered a crack in the head, Gabriel Relatado, PUJ conductor Paterno Monton, Felipe Nowena, Rogelio Patangan, Noel Ramora, and Roger Pino. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



JOHNNY VILLENA

NATION’S CATCH
It’s a heavy load for these port hands who carry dozens of kilograms of tuna on their heads to warehouses at the General Santos City fish port. For the effort, they’re paid P20 per load of tuna that they’re able to haul.

Japan warns it would transfer funds away from Tacloban airport

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The proposed rehabilitation and expansion of the Daniel Z. Romualdez (DZR) Airport in the city is in danger of being scrapped.

This came after the funding agency for the project, the Japan International Bank Cooperative (JIBC), threatened to transfer funds to other projects if the city government failed to relocate the 249 squatter-families living within the airport’s complex.

“The JBIC has given us only up to December this year to relocate the 249 families,” said Dalisay Muertegui, area manager of the Air Transportation Office in Eastern Visayas.

The families are occupying about 13 of the 34-hectare airport located in Sitio Alimasag, Barangay Costa Brava, San Jose district.

Muertegui told the INQUIRER that the JBIC had warned it would pull out from the project if the families are not relocated before the end of December.

The JBIC, she added, had pointed out that there are other domestic airports in the country that are set to undergo rehabilitation.

These are the airports in Iloilo, Bacolod and Legaspi, she said.

“The rehabilitation of the DZR Airport will make it of international standard. We expect it to become a busy airport as it can eventually serve as an alternative airport in case there will be some overflow in Cebu,” she added.

The expansion and rehabilitation of the airport, which was named after the uncle of Tacloban City Mayor Alfredo Romualdez Sr., was set to start early next year. The project costs about P3 billion to be funded by the JIBC.

Under the plan, the DZR Airport will have an expanded runway and parking spaces. Anew terminal building, fire station, powerhouse and tower building will be constructed.

A modern air and navigation equipment will be installed at the DZR Airport.

Muertegui said the 249 families are occupying the lot where the proposed terminal building will be constructed.

“We have been calling (on the city government, particularly the members of the Sanggunang Panlungsod, to pass an ordinance or a resolution giving authority to the city mayor for the resettlement or relocation of the 249 families living in Sitio Alimasag,” she said.

But, she added, their request had not been acted upon.

The ATO is an attached agency of the Department of Transportation and Communications, which is the lead government agency for the multi-billion peso project.

“We really have to make a go for this. It would be a pity if only because of this (the failure to relocate the squatter-families), the rehabilitation and expansion of the airport will not be realized,” she lamented.

On Nov. 11, Assistant Transportation Secretary Allan ’an wrote a letter addressed to Vice Mayor Edwin Chua, asking the City Council to pass a resolution that would give the city mayor the authority to relocate the affected families so the project would be implemented.

Chua said he would act on the DOTC’s request. He, however, did not say when.

Romualdez tendered a three-day leave of absence on Friday so he could undergo medical examination in a private hospital in Manila. Last May, Romualdez underwent a quintuplet heart bypass operation.

Murder of Abra mayor linked to other killings

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—A top Cordillera police official on Saturday linked the Oct. 29 murder of Mayor Clarence Benwaren of Tineg, Abra, to a series of unsolved political killings in the province since July.

Chief Supt. Victor Luga, Cordillera police director, said one of five suspects in the Benwaren murder is a resident of Abra.

The gunman, Edberto Amoncio, was killed in a gunfight with policemen but his five companions escaped minutes after Benwaren was assassinated inside a church in Calauan, Laguna.

Luga’s revelations came on the heels of an appeal made by Benwaren’s widow, Soledad, who asked human rights groups to start an independent investigation of the political killings in Abra. Soledad’s plea was aired over dzRH on Saturday.

“To the human rights organizations, to all non-government organizations, please help my family unravel the violence that has victimized Abra,” she said in Filipino.

Luga said investigators have started narrowing down their leads to several murders that occurred before and after the recent barangay elections in the province.

He said all murder cases between July and October in Abra could be crucial to pinpointing Benwaren’s killers. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Multiple murder raps readied vs suspect in massacre

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Multiple murder charges are being prepared against a charcoal maker who confessed to the massacre of four girls in Cauayan town, Negros Occidental.

Senior Supt. Vicente Ponteras, Negros Occidental police director, said the complaint against Saturnino Labanes Jr., 22, will be filed before the provincial prosecutor’s office either on Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

He said Labanes admitted to the killing of Liezel Roldan, 16 and her three younger sisters, Irene, 11; Jennifer, 9; and Richelle, 6.

But the suspect, he added, denied burning the Roldan home in Sitio Camagi-ing, Barangay Baclao, Cauayan, some 119.9 kilometers south of Bacolod City.

Labanes had also denied raping Liezel, who was reported to be pregnant, before killing her.

Police investigation showed that on Nov. 13, Labanes killed the victims, tied them together and then burned their makeshift house to mislead authorities.

The sisters were alone because their parents at that time were staying in another house at the town proper.

Senior Insp. Paterno Torralba, 4th Police Mobile Group (PMG) director, said the charred remains of the victims bore stab and hack wounds.

The Cauayan police station had in its custody a 22-inch bolo that bore the name of Labanes, which was believed to be used in killing the victims, said Ponteras.

Labanes was arrested at the house of his sister in Buenavista town, Guimaras on Saturday by teams from the Cauayan police station and the 4th PMG.

The arrest was made after Homer Montilla, 16 and the suspect’s cousin who witnessed the killings, surrendered to the Cauayan Police Station on Friday.

Montilla told Cauayan police investigators that Labanes was angered by talks being spread allegedly by Liezel that he was the father of her child.

But he said he did not personally know if the suspect and Liezel had an affair. Labanes is married with two children.

Labanes had told a radio station that he was mad at the victims’ parents because they used the root crops that he planted to feed their farm animals.

Montilla also told the police that he was not aware of Labanes’ plans to kill the sisters. “All he told me was to accompany him to the charcoal-making area,” he added.

He said he was surprised when he saw Labanes proceeding to the Roldans’ makeshift hut and then stabbed and hacked Liezel.

Labanes, he added, then hacked Liezel’s younger sisters who were sleeping at that time.

Solon’s aide killed in wake

CANDON CITY—A security ai of Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Sings was shot and killed by a lo gunman in Barangay San Agust here on Sunday, police said.

Police said Alberto Martine, 53, was attending a wake when man shot him at close range u ing a .45-cal. pistol.

Seven bullet casings and fou slugs were recovered from th crime scene.

Corazon Martinez, the victim’ wife who is also chair of Baran gay San Agustin, quoted witnesses as identifying the assailant as certain Maning Domingo.

The witnesses were quoted a saying that the gunman was a tricycle driver.

The victim’s wife, however, refused to answer when asked i Domingo had a personal grudge against her husband. She said she was still in shock to answer any questions.

Singson said the victim was his longtime supporter but refused to com [illegible] the killing was politically motivated. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Jail guards' allowances held amid drugs, 'special treatment'

By Doris Bongcac
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña suspended the monthly allowance the city grants to city jail personnel amid reports of widespread drug peddling in the jail and granting of special privileges to "influential" inmates like cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr.

Osmeña summoned Maximo Altubar, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) regional director, and acting jail warden James Labordo to his office last week to inform them of the withdrawal of the P1,000 monthly allowance given by the city to each of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) personnel.

He also gave them a tongue-lashing and told Altubar to pay the allowance of the 90 BBRC personnel. "There are abuses going on . . . drugs are all over the place. What kind of facility is this?" he ranted.

The bawl out came a day after Vice Mayor Michael Rama met individually with 17 BBRC personnel for a fact-finding investigation of the alleged special treatment extended to moneyed prisoners and the alleged proliferation of illegal drugs inside the city jail.

"The way the investigation is leading, corruption and favoritism seem to be coming from the highest levels, even beyond BBRC," Osmeña said.

Osmeña said he would not cut the food subsidy and other assistance the city gives to BBRC but emphasized that the city has "many options."

The mayor was particularly incensed when he learned about the construction of a new "infirmary" where Ecleo was transferred.

"I know that Ecleo has connections at the highest level and I would just like to monitor the situation before we penalize everybody below," Osmeña said.

Osmeña said he wanted to "force the issue" on how the third infirmary was built, sharing Rama's suspicion that Ecleo's mother, Surigao Rep. Glenda Ecleo, was behind it.

Rama suspected "something fishy" was going on after Ecleo was transferred Nov. 1 without coordination with the Police Coordinating and Advisory Council (PCAC), which he heads.

But Labordo denied having received any "offers" from the family of Ecleo for the construction of the infirmary, which he said was built using BJMP funds.

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ROUNDUP

Fire in Napocor plant

TIWI, Albay—A fire of still undetermined origin burned scrap materials at the 10,000-sqm junkyard near Plant B of the National Power Corp.'s geothermal complex in Tiwi, Albay on Friday. Napocor plant manager Alberto Badillo said the burned materials were scraps made of wire and fiber parts of the cooling towers of the rehabilitated Napocor plants. He said the fire, which started at the middle of the junkyard, did not damage property since the scraps were considered of zero value. Gilbert Gonzales, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Environmental Management Bureau regional director, sent investigators to the scene. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Lina in Duck Fest

VICTORIA, Laguna—Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. opened the 1st Itik Festival here Friday with messages of encouragement for the people of this town to unite and work together for development. Lina led the inauguration of the new road connecting Victoria and Pila towns. At least 17 floats mounted with giant ducks, giant ducks eggs decorated with duck feathers, artworks and many other symbols contributing to the spirit of the "Itik festival" participated in the festival. Various participants wore duck feathers, wings and other materials related to ducks.
Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Dog impounding

LEGAZPI CITY—The city government passed an ordinance to hunt and impound stray dogs. Dogs caught will be impounded while their owners are given 72 hours to claim them. If not, the animals will be turned over to the dog pound and become the property of the city government, Mayor Noel Rosal announced on Tuesday. Rosal said the crackdown hopes to bring down the number of bite cases involving rabid dogs. The city government, he said, spent about P300,000 for each of the city's 72 barangays in medical assistance to rabies patients. ***Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

4 bodies found

LUCENA CITY—Two fishermen died when an ill-fated fishing boat with five crewmen aboard was battered by strong waves in the seas off the Pacific Ocean in northern Quezon on Sunday. The two victims and three other survivors were found by fishermen along the shore of Barangay Binulasan in Infanta town, tied at the back of the wrecked motorboat last Monday. The victims were identified as Folyestera Promintura, 28, a native of Sto. Niño, Samar, and one alias "Bulls Chicote," a native of Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental. The survivors were identified as Rudy de Chavez, 44, from Alaminos, Pangasinan; Orlando Roca, 43, from Baybay, Leyte; and Victor Maglasang, 28, of Sto. Niño, Samar. A few hours later, fishers found the body of a woman wearing green pants floating in Lamon Bay between Polillio and Balisi islands. Coast guards also found the body of a naked man floating near the coast of Dinahican. The man had a triangle tattoo in the right thigh.
Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Phone snatcher jailed

BACOLOD CITY—Some victims of cellular phone thieves do get justice, after all. Negros Occidental Regional Trial Court Judge Ramon Delariarte on Thursday sentenced Gregorio Lopez Sta. Ana to six years, one month and 10 days in prison for stealing a Nokia 3210 cellular phone from a seminarian. Delariarte said Sta. Ana, 26, will be sent to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City to serve his term. Delariarte pleaded guilty to the robbery. The civil liability of Sta. Ana has been waived since the phone was recovered from the accused who, the judge said, was financially incapable of paying damages. The arrest and filing of charges against Sta. Ana is a rarity since most victims of cellphone snatching have complained of the police's inability to catch the culprits. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Messenger shot dead

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified gunmen shot and killed Thursday night a messenger of Southern Mindanao's premier state university. Police said Biah Mangacoy, 52 and resident of Barangay Aringay, Kabacan, Cotabato, was on board a motorcycle inside the University of Southern Mindanao campus when shot. He suffered bullet wounds in the head and body. Also on Thursday, an unidentified gunman shot dead a caretaker of a golf driving range in Barangay Rosary Heights 8, Cotabato City. Police identified the victim as Dodo Campanier, also a golf instructor and resident of Davao City. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Moving Mass at Manila Bay for 19 victims

From page A1

vestigation, but did not elaborate.

Desierto said: "Whatever loss we sustained and pains that we had is overshadowed by the fact that God has a plan. A plan which we may not yet see or understand but one that would definitely benefit the majority in the future."

Lilly Jubalde, 55, a cousin of victim Josefina Fajardo, Batanes provincial auditor, could only nod in agreement.

"Life has to go on. I keep telling her husband (Bernardo, 61) to be strong but the family is still devastated," Jubalde later said.

Among those present at the ceremony were Thompson Lantion, representing Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, and congressmen Florencio Abad of Batanes and Roque Ablan of Ilocos Norte. Many of those who died in the crash hailed from the two provinces.

Also recognized during the rites were four of the fishermen who took part in the rescue operations. Honored for their "good deeds" were Manila Bay fishers Edgar and Crispulo Naga, and Elorde Naga, 12, and Rico Cayabyab, 15. *(See related story.)*

Miranda reported that Laoag Air continues to take care of the medical needs of eight of the 15 survivors. They are confined at the San Juan de Dios Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center, the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital and the Ospital ng Maynila.

Sincere apologies

Miranda tossed a wreath into the sea with the help of other LaoagAir officials.

"We apologize sincerely for this unfortunate incident and wish to express our deepest condolences to the family and prayers for the repose of the souls of those who died," Miranda said in a press statement.

Miranda also sent letters of apology to the families of those who were killed and to the 15 survivors.

"We regret very much the accident that happened with our aircraft . . . where your loved one died, or was injured," Miranda wrote.

The apology came after LaoagAir owner and chief executive officer Capt. Paul Ng was quoted as saying that the plane was sabotaged before it took off from the Manila Domestic Airport on the morning of Nov. 11.

Miranda also reiterated earlier pronouncements that the company would exhaust its available resources to attend to the medical needs of those who were injured and to pay for the burial and other related expenses of those who died.

"We assure you that we are doing our best to minimize the pain and suffering. If there is anything that we can do at this time to assuage your feelings, please do not hesitate to let us know," Miranda said.

Black box

Air Transportation Office chief Adelberto Yap said the black box was going to be flown yesterday to the United Kingdom for decoding.

He said he expected the results after a week, before the government fact-finding committee's Nov. 30 deadline.

The panel Mendoza formed to investigate last week's crash has until the end of the month to produce a report on the accident, now that the black box had been recovered.

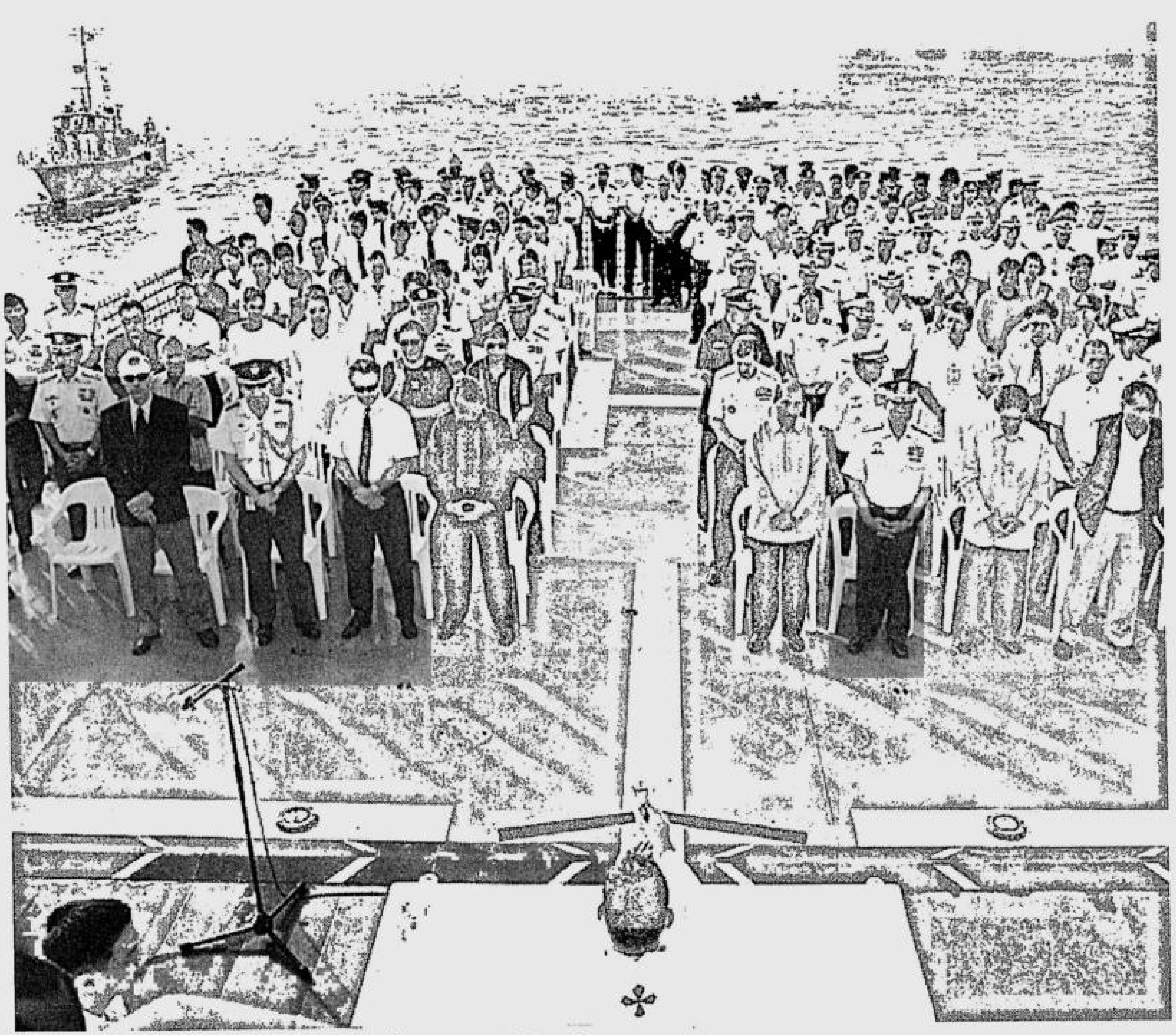
"We commend the Philippine Coast Guard for the recovery of the black box," Mendoza said in a statement.

With the formation of a new investigative panel, Mendoza instructed Yap to conclude its own investigation and turn over all data and documentation.

The ATO and PCG would probably be included in the investigation.

"The Committee is (empowered) to call upon and secure the assistance of any sectoral and attached agency or instrumentality of the DOTC in the performance of its duties and discharge of its functions," Mendoza said.

Yap has already expressed his willingness to subject the ATO to any investigation in connection with the crash.



THE DECK of BRP Edsa II is turned into a chapel at sea, as relatives of Flight 585 victims, government officials, Coast Guard and Navy officers and Australian Embassy personnel remember those who perished in the crash.

ERIK ARAZAS

"Yes, we are ready to face any investigation," Yap said in the face of allegations that the ATO could have missed out on some irregularities in the maintenance of LaoagAir's aircraft.

The DOTC panel is headed by Usec Arturo Valdez. Its members are Capt. Amado Soliman, lawyer Deo Deocampo of the DOTC's legal department, retired Gen. Tereso Isleta and Air Force Lt. Cl. Roy Devenatura.

2 teenaged fishermen cited for heroism

From page A1

34, were among the first fishermen to arrive at the crash scene that fateful Monday morning.

They rescued three passengers, including a foreigner, before the plane eventually descended into the murky depths.

Yesterday, the four fishermen were among the special guests during the Holy Mass held at the crash site to remember the victims.

The Philippine Coast Guard and the Macapagal administration will also reward them for their heroism during the tragedy.

"We have verified their story and we are now coordinating with (Department of Telecommunications and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza). President Macapagal-Arroyo might even give the award," said Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, Philippine Coast Guard commandant.

But the fishermen said they were not expecting much and that they just did what other people in their place would have done.

"I was just happy to help. I was not afraid," said Elorde, who stopped going to school to help his father catch fish.

Smoking plane

Elorde said they had just arrived at their fishing grounds from their community in La Huerta, Parañaque, when the Fokker 27 crashed.

"There was smoke coming out of the plane and it plunged into the water and broke into two," Elorde said.

The fishermen were about 50 meters away from where the plane crashed and they immediately came to the rescue on board their small motorized banca.

"There were already two bodies floating on the water when we arrived. We tried to see if there were other survivors," Crispolo said.

The plane was already partially submerged. Crispolo and Edgar used an air compressor, like the ones used in vulcanizing shops, to breathe under water.

Rico and Elorde stayed on board and helped to pull up those who were still alive.

Crispolo said he could not remember how many survivors they pulled out of the water since five other fishing boats arrived to help.

But he said he remembered pulling out a Caucasian who was alive.

"They all had this blank expression on their faces. I tried to ask them what happened but they did not answer. Maybe they were in shock," Crispolo said.

He said they then brought the victims to Roxas Boulevard, where other Good Samaritans took over and took the victims to various hospitals.

Crispolo said that when they returned to the crash site, the plane had already sunk.

The four fishermen then quietly disappeared.

The Coast Guard later tracked them down, to offer them something for their heroism.

"Anything. Just make it our Christmas gift," Rico said when asked what award he expected to get.

Rico, who was in Grade V when he began fishing, said he had no plans to go back to school.

But not Elorde, who said he wanted to continue his studies next year.

FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD Rico Cayabyab, 12-year-old Elorde Naga and Elorde's uncle Crispulo helped save the lives of three Flight 585 passengers.

ERIK ARAZAS

GMA economic advisers to rate her economic managers

From page A1

they will be staying in the Cabinet for some time," Agence France Presse quoted Bunye as telling ABS-CBN television.

Bunye stressed at the briefing that the tenure of each Cabinet member was determined on a "day-to-day basis" because it was based on the trust and confidence of the President.

He said a Cabinet official could be shown the door at any time "when this trust is no longer there."

Sought for comment on the rejected resignations, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said he had not been apprised of goings-on in the Cabinet since he "relinquished" the foreign affairs portfolio middle of this year.

He told reporters in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, that he was more inclined to talk about the problems besetting the economy than discuss the issue rocking the Cabinet.

"Let's not forget the five million Filipinos who are without jobs, the 40 percent of our people who are poor, those children who are malnourished," he said.

Asked to assess how the President was running the government, Guingona said: "You are getting me into trouble. I will just whisper it to you later."

But he said it was Ms Macapagal's "prerogative" to revamp the Cabinet at this time.

When Guingona quit the Cabinet, he said he was doing so over major policy differences with the President.

Resign now

At the House, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the Palace's supposed "on-again-off-again" plan to reshuffle the Cabinet was a definite sign of turmoil in the administration.

"Malacañang clearly does not know what to do to save itself from floundering," the party-list representative said. "(It) is more concerned with presenting a stable façade to foreign investors than fixing the Cabinet to make it more responsive to the needs of the Filipino people."

To the Cabinet members, Beltran has this message: Resign now and show respect for yourselves.

"It's slightly pathetic that they are holding on to their positions even when talk is rife that the President has plans to unload them," he said. "They should salvage their dignity and self-respect, and resign."

Beltran said Cabinet members were not entirely to blame for their performance because "they have only been following Malacañang's orders and its flawed blueprint of governance."

But he said Secretaries Patricia Sto. Tomas (labor), Blas Ople (foreign affairs), Heherson Alvarez (environment) and Angelo Reyes (defense) should get the axe: "They should be removed from office because of the anomalies that trail their names, and the departmental decisions they have laid down that are inimical to public interest."

Beltran earlier sought a House investigation of an agreement that Alvarez forged in behalf of the government with Shannalyne Inc., a foreign-owned corporation, and the governments of New Zealand and Finland on the development and utilization of 110,790 hectares of forest land in the Caraga region.

In a resolution seeking the inquiry, Beltran and Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Liza Largoza-Maza said the agreement violated the constitutional provision that the state is allowed to enter into co-production, joint venture, or production-sharing agreements only with Filipino citizens or corporations or associations at least 60 percent of whose capital is owned by Filipino citizens.

Beltran, who chairs the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno, had charged Sto. Tomas of implementing anti-worker policies. Ople and Reyes, on the other hand, have been under fire from activists because of alleged subservience to US dictates and the militarization of the countryside, respectively. *With reports from Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila*

Rene: How can Nani be so lucky?

From page A1

Estrada in exchange for endorsing an energy contract with an Argentinian firm.

"We should start from scratch so we need not insult anyone who may feel left out if the search would be limited to pikers," he said.

Saguisag pointed out that with Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez's declaration Thursday night that Villarama had cleared him, "the cloud now hangs only over the rest of the Cabinet, led by Executive Secretary (Alberto) Romulo."

"Lucky Nani, even if he is the last one to know and has not started any inquiry" by the Department of Justice, Saguisag quipped, adding that the Cabinet official in question was "not in the opposition and must be a favorite" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Saguisag, once a member of the defense team at Estrada's plunder trial, also took a swipe at Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and Reynaldo Wycoco, director of the National Bureau of Investigation.

"(Their) silence is deafening," he noted. "They claim they crusade against graft and corruption but not a pip this time, which in itself is eloquent."

Villarama delivered a privilege speech on Nov. 12 wherein he made a blind exposé on the supposed bribe-taker in the President's Cabinet.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson subsequently named Perez as the official, saying he and Villarama had the same source in Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

On Nov. 14 Perez and Villarama had a meeting supposedly set up by the President. Immediately afterward, Perez told reporters that the controversy was a "pure misunderstanding" and that Villarama had made the assurance that he was not the one cited in the congressman's speech.

By then, however, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel had announced that Villarama should name names or risk sanctions by the House, and Senate President Franklin Drilon had warned that the DOJ and its allied agencies, including the NBI, faced budget cuts if the identity of the "million-dollar man" were not investigated and made public.

The next day, Villarama said he did not identify the official in whose Hong Kong bank account the bribe had supposedly been deposited because the document he was holding had only an account number. He also said he had not accused anyone and therefore did not clear anyone.

But then, Saguisag noted in his statement, "we have only Nani's word for it."

Abu Sayyaf plot to bomb Edsa overpass uncovered

SUSPECTED bomber Abdul Mukim Edris is presented to the media by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Nov. 14. PDI PHOTO

From page A1

carried out with a powerful truck bomb envisioned to destroy a passing Light Rail Transit train, the Edsa Shrine, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency.

"It was an ideal target," the official said of the area that includes the Ortigas business and shopping center. "They'll blow up the overpass and hit Catholic, economic and government symbols at the same time."

"There was no specific timetable for the overpass attack. It depended on when the logistics would arrive," the official said, adding that security in the area had been bolstered.

The Edsa overpass was one of the top priorities on a list of targets disclosed by Abdulmukim Edris, 30, an alleged Abu Sayyaf bomb expert who was arrested last week in Pasay City. Military officials earlier said the bandit group also targeted the US Embassy, Manila Stock Exchange and shopping malls.

Edris, who carries a P1-million reward on his head, allegedly headed a group of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan who were trained last year by two unidentified Yemenis to make car and truck bombs.

Military ordnance experts who tested Edris' bomb-making skills were convinced of his expertise, the official told AP.

The official also said Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani ordered Edris last month to make the truck bomb using five to six drums of ammonium nitrate to be detonated using a watch or a cell phone while a train was passing.

Edris was waiting for the materials to be delivered by his fellow bandits when he was caught, the official said.

Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces chief of staff, said Edris faced murder and kidnapping charges after being "implicated by his own cohorts" in at least four bombings in .Zamboanga City last month that killed 12 people and injured more than 200 others.

Defensor said Edris also was the "mastermind" in the October 2001 bombing of a food court in Zamboanga that killed six people and injured 50 others.

He also allegedly took part in the May 2001 raid on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, in which the Abu Sayyaf seized three Americans and 17 Filipinos. It was the start of a yearlong kidnapping spree in which more than 100 people were eventually abducted.

The Abu Sayyaf is accused of a string of deadly bombings and mass kidnappings. Authorities believe it has links with the al-Qaida terror network.

Sali

Hamsiraji Sali, an Abu Sayyaf leader wanted by the United States for the deaths of American hostages Guillermo Sobero and Martin Burnham, yesterday told ABS-CBN television that he was ready to help the Philippine government if the military halted its offensive in Basilan.

But Sali warned that he might change his mind and retaliate if the Army continued its attacks, which led to the death of one of his men last week.

He said he had broken ties with the Janjalani faction because of contradicting views and goals.

ABS-CBN said it interviewed Sali by phone from an unknown hideout in Mindanao. Sali is believed to be hiding in Basilan.

A captured Abu Sayyaf member, Kair Muktar, recently told reporters that the Abu Sayyaf leaders were locked in a power struggle and were quarreling over ransom money.

Last month, Sali told a radio station that he wanted to surrender and cooperate with the government to help the civilian population of Basilan.

But Sali, who uses the alias Commander Jose Ramirez, said yesterday that this was conditional on the military halting its offensive there. *AP*

Oops! Copy, photo don't match

IN yesterday's story on Imelda Marcos' first public appearance in Metro Manila since a core group of loyalists severed ties with her, we described the "visibly troubled" former first lady as shorn of her usual expensive jewelry, save for a ring. Our reporter on the scene, however, failed to see that Marcos was also wearing a big sparkling bracelet on her right wrist—an accessory clearly visible in the photo we published. To make matters worse, our news desk failed to compare photo with copy. Our apologies.

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Meralco: Refund may only be ₱8B

From page A1

would have fallen below 12 percent since 1999. This might mean, he said, that the period to be covered by the refund would be up to 1999 only.

If so, Meralco would refund only about P8 billion.

Franchise debate

In the Senate, Arroyo said the ruling on the refund made the mega-franchise even more necessary.

"Because if you do not do that (grant the mega-franchise), who will implement the SC decision? Who will pay for the refund?" the maverick administration senator asked. Arroyo has backed the granting of the franchise before. Last month, he argued that the application must be approved, because no one else had applied for the mega-franchise.

Meralco's application to consolidate its franchises to supply electricity in Luzon has passed the committee level and is now ready for consideration on second reading. Senate majority leader Loren Legarda-Leviste said the franchise could be up for deliberation later this week.

But opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta said the Senate should "not rush the granting of the mega-franchise to Meralco."

"In view of Meralco's own warning that the SC decision could spell its financial ruin, we should study more thoroughly, instead of hastily giving it our thumbs up, the pending application of Meralco," she said.

Oreta said the Senate should "carefully go over the application of the power utility firm for a mega-franchise to determine whether such a privilege would still be beneficial to consumers given the colossal impact of the SC ruling on the future of Meralco and its millions of electricity consumers.

"To head off consumer unrest, Malacañang should give top priority to crafting a broad plan that would allow consumers to get their money back without forcing Meralco to go under," she said.

In the House, Dilangalen sought the recall of the House approval of Meralco's mega-franchise because he said the power utility firm "would not be able to deliver on the obligations it has under its mega-franchise."

In a privilege speech, he noted that Meralco had already warned of 10-hour power outages in Metro Manila if it were forced to pay the refund.

"It thus cannot provide electricity without interruptions," Dilangalen later told reporters.

Amount of refund

In the power firm's briefing, Francisco said the amount of the refund depended on which customers were entitled to it and by how much.

"The 16.7 centavos per kilowatt-hour (classified by the SC as excess charge) is an average," Francisco said. "But different customer classes are charged differently."

The refund, he said, was "a function of the volume of consumption," meaning that the more electricity a customer consumed, the higher the amount that must be returned to him.

But Francisco said: "We are asking our customers to be patient. We have been waiting for the resolution of this case for years, after all. We want to be careful and study the numbers before we make any announcements."

He also stressed that the rates they had collected since 1994 were approved by the now-defunct Energy Regulatory Board.

Meralco filed for a 21-centavo rate hike in December 1993, for which the ERB gave the firm a provisional authority to increase rates by 18.4 centavos.

In February 1998, the ERB said Meralco was entitled to a rate hike of only 1.7 centavos and that it should return to consumers the 16.7 centavos it had collected since 1994.

"It's not as if we came up with our own rates and implemented this," Francisco said.

The Meralco chief said that the utility had 15 days to file a motion for reconsideration upon receipt of the copy of the decision.

"We have not officially received a copy but we are studying it and are preparing a motion for reconsideration that we would present to the board of directors," Francisco said.

Over the weekend, a group of activist scientists claimed that consumers could expect a refund averaging P33 a month for eight years or a total of P3,473 per household.

Yesterday, Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates, said his group wants an immediate lump sum refund of P3,500 for households using up 200 kWh a month and P5,200 for those using up 300 kWh a month.

These households, he said, comprise the bulk of Meralco's customers.

Meralco data show that, out of 3.9 million customers, those using 300 kWh and less numbered 3.1 million.

Big companies

But in the Senate, Arroyo claimed that it was big companies who stood to gain the most from the SC decision.

The upper chamber's public services committee chair said the average Filipino household "belongs to the socialized sector and would hardly feel the effects of the high court decision."

"The rich will only become richer. The big industries which consume the most electricity will benefit from (the SC ruling) based on the simple logic that the more electricity you consumed, the more you were overcharged, so the more you should be refunded," he told the INQUIRER.

Arroyo said the average Filipino household belongs to the socialized sector, which pays a regular minimal fee for electricity used, and, as such, "would hardly feel or enjoy any refund coming from Meralco."

He also clarified various interpretations of the high tribunal's decision and noted that "there are only two ways by which Meralco could return the P28 billion in overcharges to its consumers."

These are to directly refund Meralco's consumers or to "correspondingly credit (the refund) in their favor for future consumption."

Senate President Franklin Drilon had earlier proposed that if Meralco could not refund the P28 billion directly, the amount could be converted into shares of stock in the company and then distributed among consumers.

"It would serve the interests of the consumers in that, if they want immediate cash, they can sell these shares in the open market since Meralco is listed in the Philippine Stock Exchange," Drilon proposed.

Meralco spokesperson Elpi Cuna said the equity proposal could be one of the options open for the company.

But Arroyo nixed Drilon's proposal, saying that "nowhere in the SC decision was refund-for-equity made part of the modes on how Meralco could pay back the P28 billion."

"It's either refund or crediting it back in favor of the consumers. It will be up to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on which mode it would use to compel Meralco to refund the P28 billion," Arroyo said.

Government takeover?

In related developments: Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad shrugged off calls by fellow lawmakers for a government takeover of Meralco, saying the state was "in no position" to take over the power utility.

"The government is already burdened by Napocor," he said. "Why add to that?"

Caloocan City Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri proposed the creation of a special body to monitor Meralco's compliance with the SC ruling.

Militant protesters launched a civil disobedience campaign aimed at pressuring Meralco into immediately refunding as much as P28.15 billion in excess charges.

Members of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino (BMP), Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) and Sanlakas trooped to the Meralco head office in the Ortigas Center to symbolically serve a bill for P28 billion, due immediately.

The militant labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno warned of nationwide protests if Meralco failed to pay up at once.

"The people's decision is final. Meralco should pay dearly for the grave injustice it had done to consumers," KMU spokesperson Sammy Malunes said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Tina Santos, Gerald Lacuarta and Agnes Donato*

Meralco stock takes beating on report of ₱28-B refund

From page A1

temporarily shelving plans to sell its 10-percent stake in Meralco.

"There is a fundamental change in the landscape with respect to the viability of selling the Meralco shares," Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto said.

"The government's position continues to be that it intends to eventually dispose of its stake in Meralco. With what happened the past week, which resulted in a fairly drastic drop in the market price of the shares, we are forced to evaluate our timetable," Recto said.

The government owns 24 percent of Meralco while the powerful Lopez family controls 16 percent.

During yesterday's trading, utilities and companies affiliated with the Lopez group also suffered. Meralco parent firm First Philippine Holdings slipped P2.25 to close at P10.25, while Benpres Holdings Corp., which also has substantial Meralco sales, fell 3 centavos to 16 centavos.

The sell-off, however, hardly surprised market analysts. "It was expected that investors would pull the plug on (Meralco) shares after the ruling," said Astro del Castillo of A&A Securities Inc.

The extent of the Meralco sell-off "will depend on the next few days on all the plans that will be floated, how they plan to do the refund," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities Inc.

"I think there must be some kind of capital-raising activity" to cover the Meralco refund costs, he added.

BPI Securities Corp. investment analyst Spencer Yap said the consequences of the court ruling on Meralco was "staggering."

"Either they borrow or cut back on capex (capital expenditure) and other costs. Given the company is highly leveraged already, Meralco can only borrow at higher interest rates, assuming there are creditors willing to lend."

Standard & Poor's cut its rating on the company by two notches to B-plus from BB on Friday after the court ruling. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Chess registration deadline

REGISTRATION for the Metropolitan Chess Association Amateur League will end on Dec. 4. More than P150,000 in prizes are up for grabs. Call Mila Emperado at tels. 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069 for more details.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 2002

Assisi, Ateneo target semis berths

GAMES TODAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
2 p.m.--UST vs Ateneo
4 p.m.--St. Francis vs FEU

By Roy Luarca

TOP seed St. Francis of Assisi and UAAP champion Ateneo target semifinal berths today when they face separate opponents in the Champions League 2002 at the Makati Coliseum.

St. Francis, the reigning national inter-collegiate, NCRAA and UCAA titlist, tests its mettle against Far Eastern University in the 2 p.m. opener while Ateneo tangles with University of Santo Tomas at 4 p.m.

The St. Francis Doves, powered by PBL standouts, are solid favorites over the FEU Tamaraws, but the Blue Eagles are in a precarious situation owing to the likely absence of 2002 UAAP MVP Enrico Villanueva and two-time MVP awardee Rich Alvarez.

Villanueva is pursuing masteral studies and is slated to go to the United States while Alvarez is catching up on his academics.

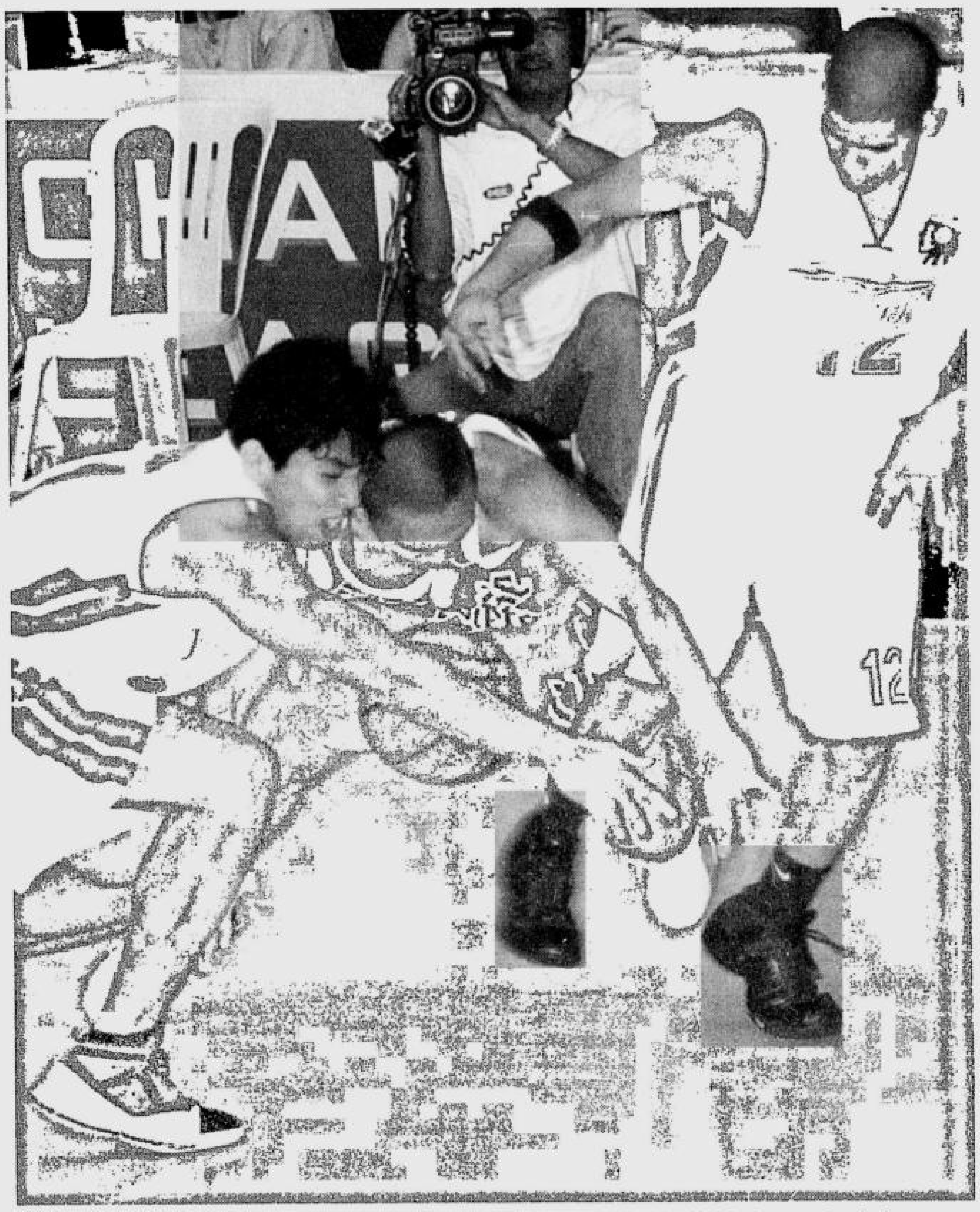
Ateneo coach Joel Banal, however, said the Blue Eagles are prepared to play the Tamaraws sans Villanueva and Alvarez.

"Okay lang. The boys just have to play harder," Banal told the Inquirer before the Blue Eagles held practice last night.

The Doves of coach Gabby Velasco are oozing with firepower. Apart from Ranidel de Ocampo, the national inter-collegiate's best player, they also have 6-foot-7 Irvin Sotto, Roy Billanes, Al Vergara, Nishar Kiram and 6-foot-7 Lawrence Bonus.

Tomorrow at 2 p.m., NCAA champion San Sebastian College battles University of the East, while Las Pinas College tackles University of Visayas in the other half of the knockout quarterfinals.

The tournament, a brainchild of Coach Joe Lipa, is sponsored by Petron, San Miguel Corp., PLDT, adidas, Wilson, Hapee and Pagcor.



UE Warriors Paolo Hubalde (right) and Jay-Ar Estrada dispute the loose ball with a USJ-R player on Sunday's Champion's League 2002 quarterfinals at the Makati Coliseum. UE won, 74-67, to advance to the round of 8. ERIK ARAZAS

RP Youth, PMI trounce Nat'l Junior opponents

CALAPE, Bohol–The RP Youth-Burlington team beat Bohol Institute of Technology, 104-72, Saturday night at the start of the 3rd National Juniors Basketball Championship at the New Calape Cultural Center Gym here.

Drawing firepower from Robert Raymond Labagala and Miguel Lindaya, RP Youth took a 51-38 halftime lead and was never headed as it shared the early lead with Philippine Maritime Institute in the tournament being hosted by Mayor Ernesto Herrera II.

PMI trounced Cebu's Salazar Institute of Technology, 89-61, in the other inaugural game.

Labagala fired 21 points while Lindaya added 15 points for coach Johnny Tam's charges made up of players who are 18 years and under.

Also drilling in twin digits for RP Youth were Mark Louie Pradas with 14 points, hotshot Jonathan Fernandez with 12 and 6-foot-5 center Ryan David Borja with 10.

"We're grateful for Mayor Herrera for supporting this tournament intended for grassroots development," said Graham Lim, secretary general of the sanctioning Basketball Association of the Philippines.

The event is also being supported by Absolute distilled water.

The scores:

RP YOUTH 104-Labagala 21, Lindaya 15, Pradas 14, Fernandez 12, Borja 10, Regala 7, Sumalinog 6, Fedelicio 4, Torculas 4, Catamora 3, Longalong 2.

BOHOL INSTITUTE -Quibol 16, Gudez 14, Tan 11, Udang 10, Mapait 7, Davison 4, Gatrote 2, Torredes 2, Nombre 2, Nisnisan 1.

Halftime: 39-27.

PMI 89-Amit 17, Supremo 15, Ancog 14, Apat 12, Ferrer 7, Badilla 6, Dumapig 6, Bueno 5, Valeroso 4.

SIT 61-Soriano 14, Reyes 11, Jabellana 10, Agpasa 7, Cinco 6, Ebon 4, Comajig 3, Kintanar 2, Tutud 2, Valenzuela 2.

Halftime: 51-38.

Lhuillier CBL champ

CEBU CITY--M. Lhuillier steadied in the final canto to down Spring Cooking Oil, 84-76, and bag the CBL (Cebu Basketball League) Invitational Cup crown last Friday at the Cebu Coliseum here.

With Jerry Jaca, Bong Marata and Aldrin Ocanada at the firing end, the Jewellers broke away from a 62-62 third quarter standoff in the last 6:32 and never looked back.

Rodel Manuel, Ricky Ricafuente and Braulio Lim sparked a 10-2 run to push the Cooking Oil Masters within four, 74-78, time down to 1:25.

But their efforts went for naught when Tyrone Bautista and Lim himself failed to convert unmolested baskets in the last minute. ML Kwarta Padala took third spot by beating the University of San Jose-Recoletos Jaguars, 73-60.

Faragua, Nava share world chess top spot

IM Mark Paragua and two other Filipino bets were among the leaders in their respective divisions after three rounds of the World Youth Chess Championships in Heraklio, Crete in Greece.

The eight seeded Paragua and compatriot Roderick Nava posted perfect three points as they remained tied with 11 others in the tough 18 and under division.

Nelson Mariano III, younger brother of Bled Olympian Nelson Mariano II, also has three points and shares top spot with 16 others in the under-12 category.

Paragua, who is seeking his second GM result, tangles with Hungarian IM Ambras Flumbort, ranked 11th, in the fourth of the 11-round tournament.

Other Filipinos seeing action are Vic Neil Villanueva, with 1 point in the under-14, and L. Laceste Brigham, with 1.5 points in the under-12.

Aices Salvador has 2 points in the girls' under-12 while Chardine Camacho Cheradee has yet to score in the under-12.

Villacorta rules Ambi Pur auto track day in Batangas

ROSARIO, Batangas–Ditre Villacorta 111, Jun Navarro, Felix Perez, Arthur Avenir, Ronald Anasco, Mayi Alejandro and Justin Ong emerged as the overall winners in their respective categories in the Ambi Pur "Auto Track Day" at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

Villacorta submitted the best time of 2:08.073 in the 3.6 kilometer racetrack to edge Marc Ablaza and Lito Ignacio and rule the BMW category in this event sponsored by Standard Insurance, Red Horse, Pegasus and the Philippine Auto Sports Council.

Ablaza finished second with a best time of 2:09.000, while Ignacio came in third with 2:15.419.

Completing the top five drivers are Frankie Teo, fourth with 2:14.100 and Ryan Cruz, fifth with 2:17.062.

Navarro topped the Nissan Bayan class over Saldie Sandariega, Daniel Chong and Michelle Yu, clocking 2:24.090.

Perez outduelled Sonny de Torres and Arnel Barro in the Honda category. Perez timed 2:06.609 against De Torres' 2:15.724 and 2:29.481.

Avenir, on the other hand, stamped his class in the Toyota category over Francie Samonte, Martin Estrella and Rodriguez Bohdan. He clocked 2:54.625 against Samonte's 2:54.117 and Estrella's 2:54.1 57.

Anasco dominated the Mercedes Benz class with 2:53.409, while Alejandrino topped the Volkswagen class with 2:17.002.

Ong made his presence felt in the 17-man Auto Industria category, beating Ramiro Villavicencio, Fitzgerald Santos and Jeff Tan.

The event is organized by the Batangas Racing Circuit Association through project director Zaldy Rodriguez.

Rotary shootfest Nov. 23

ARCEEMAK Shooters, Inc. – an exclusive gun club of members of the Rotary Club of Makati—will sponsor a four-stage shootfest among gun clubs within Rotary Districts 3810 and 3830, even as it invites other non-Rotarian gun clubs to participate.

Proceeds will go to the Rotary polio plus and anti-TB campaign, which is a worldwide project of the Rotary Club International.

The event will be held on Nov. 23 at the Security and Escort Battalion Range of the Philippine Army, Fort Bonifacio.

For details call 8990509 or 8990520 ask for Caloy.

Anton runs final race as Class B driver Nov. 23-24

Kurt Busch heads into the waiting arms of his crew members Sunday after winning the Nascar Winston Cup Ford 400 at Homestead-Miami Speedway in Homestead, Florida. AP

ACE driver Mike Anton caps off his phenomenal return into circuit racing this year when he runs his final race as a class B driver in the season-ending rounds of the 2002 SVI Blaze Super Saloon Championships slated at the Subic International Raceway on Nov. 23-24.

Anton, of Pinoy Toppings-QC Autosport, who went on a three-year hiatus from racing, came back with a bang as he dominated the Class B competitions to clinch the class title as early as the 10th round of the 14-leg series. He likewise made waves by outdriving a number of Class A drivers in the combined Super Saloon races.

To address the need to be competitive, the fast-food chain operator called on his good friend, the celebrated race engine tuner Dominic Cuesta of QC Autosports to prepare his Honda Civic for the daunting task which lay ahead. Cuesta lost no time fine-tuning the Honda hatchback's EK4 engine into a monster.

Anton's prolific comeback was made possible through the support provided by Pinoy Toppings, QC Autosports, KTC Tools, A-Toy Fiberglass Works and Demvel's Enterprises.

Showtime for Leongson, motocross riders

IT'S going to be showtime for the country's best riders as the championship leg of the Superferry National Motocross Super Series 2002 blasts off on Nov. 22 and 23 at the PAMRI Racetracks, Army Adventure Zone in Taguig, Metro Manila.

Multi-titled Ernie Leongson of Shell-Yamaha is all set to bag the title in the premier pro open category with a sizable lead over his closest pursuers.

But Glenn Aguilar, top rider of the Caltex-Revtex-KTM team, vows to end an up-and-down season in a blaze of glory in this event organized by the Hartebeest Entertainment Corp. and the Kabataang Iwas Droga sa tulong ng Sports (KIDS) Foundation, headed by its Chairman Richard Gomez.

"This is it. It's the final leg of the Superferry motocross series and everybody is looking forward to a great showing, considering that many enthusiasts will remember the last performance the most," said Gomez, himself an avid motocross practitioner.

The final leg is made possible by Superferry, in cooperation with WG&A Freight, Bench, No Fear, ITTI Shoes, Nature's Spring Drinking Water, Dreambikes, Crossover 105.1 and The Army Adventure Zone, through Gen. Dionisio Santiago and Col. Robert Gervacio of the Philippine Army.

Official practice day is on Nov. 22 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. while race proper is set the following day.

Aside from the premier pro open and pro 125 divisions, riders will also dispute titles in the expert class, open production, beginner production, power enduro, dual sport, executive, local beginner enduro, mini class and a special category for peewee (9 and 7 years old-and-below).

"We expect all riders to go all-out in the final leg. Motocross aficionados will be in for a treat and so we are expecting everyone to troop to PAMRI racetrack," said Marilen Nunez, CEO of Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

The Taguig leg is the culmination of the Superferry Series that also made record-breaking attendance stops in Iloilo City, Talisay City, Mandaue City, Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Dumaguete City and Cagayan de Oro.

Uratex to make caddies golf memorable X'mas

"MORE prizes for their family this Christmas."

Thus said Robert Cheng yesterday as he reiterated his desire to bring joy to the nation's caddies once again when he revives the 14th Uratex National Caddies Championship.

"They will receive more prizes this year," said Cheng, who founded the tournament in 1988 at Capitol Hills. "It is to them that us golfers owe a lot. Without them, we can't play golf with ease. We can only enjoy the game with them around."

The tournament, scrapped last year due to family reasons, will be held Dec. 17-20 at Valley in Antipolo, Rizal.

Cheng met yesterday with the members of the organizing committee which is being co-chaired by Abe Villanueva and Manding Santos.

"We didn't hold the event last year in lieu of family reasons. But from now on–and in the spirit of Christmas–we want all of them to go back home with a big bounty for their family," said Cheng.

Joked Cheng: "We will make up for what we didn't do last year."

The national event, the only one of its kind in the world since it's exclusively for Filipino caddies, has consistently discovered talents from the countryside. Among them are now-rated professionals like Rodrigo Cuello and Al Cruz, and national player Jay Bayron.

The deadline of registration is 5 p.m. on Dec. 14, through the National Golf Association of the Philippines' Hazel Novero, Susan Facundo and Charlyn Clavis at tels. 525-69-87 and 524-51-60 or fax 521-15-87.

Another registration center is Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club at tel. 931-30-50 or fax-phone 932-57-09 through Nenette Paelmo, Malou Santos and Ciela Tolentino.

"There are no fees involved," said Villanueva. "All we ask of our participating caddies is to wear uniforms bearing their clubs' names."

Said Santos: "All registration forms must bear the signatures of either the presidents or general managers of the clubs."

Cheng is continuing the event in coordination with the First Gentleman Foundation Inc. headed by Mike Arroyo.

The tournament left Capitol Hills, its permanent hole, but only temporarily as Capitol is undergoing renovation.

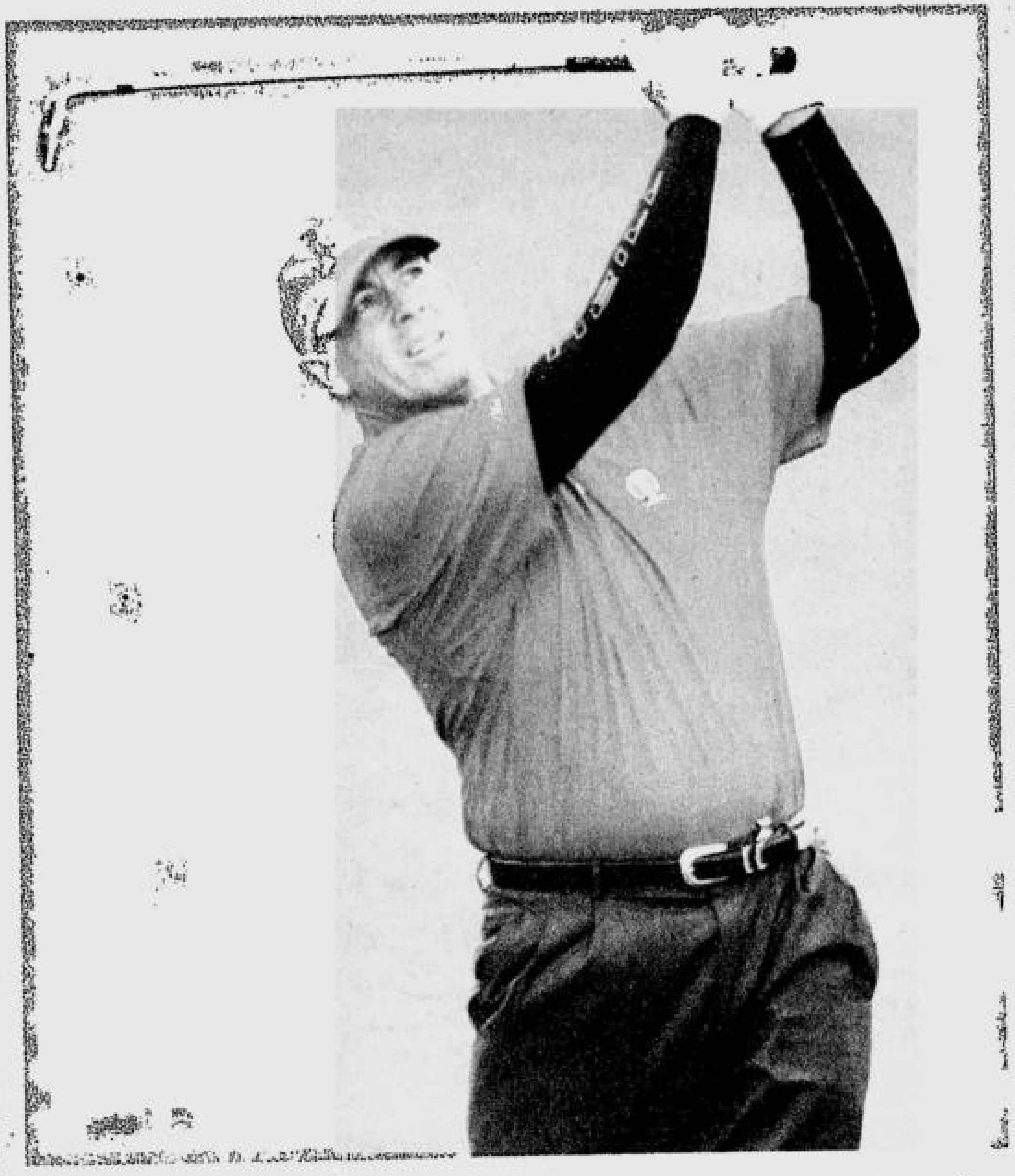
Valley, through its board headed by its president Alexander "Bobot" Marquez, has unanimously approved the staging at the Executive Course.

Aside from individual play, there will also be a team competition in both the men's and women's divisions.

Team play will be four-to-play, three-to-count format.

As past practices, Cheng will shoulder the board and lodging of all participants.

"In the past, we only reward the top 30 teams," said Santos, the chief accountant of the sponsoring Polyfoam-RGC-International Corp. Uratex Philippines Inc. where Cheng is president. "This time, teams finishing 31st down will also win prizes. We are giving them in the form of gift certificates so as not to endanger their amateur status." *ASM*



WARBURG STANDOUT
Tom Lehman of the United States hits his approach shot to the 16th green during the UBS Warburg Cup on Sunday at the Seaside course of the Sea Island Golf Club on St. Simons Island, Ga. Lehman and Hale Irwin shone despite the biting cold as the Americans retained the title at the expense of the Rest of the World, 14.5-9.5 points. Half of the players were in the 40-49 age bracket and the other half 50 and over. AP

Asiad athletes feted Dec. 18 at Philsports

ATHLETES who saw action in the Busan 14th Asian Games will be feted in another star-studded night dubbed the Alay Sa Gintong Medalya: The Thanksgiving Concert on Dec. 18 at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

Gold medal winners equestrienne Mikee Cojuangco Jaworski, bowlers Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista and billiards aces Django Bustamante and Antonio Lining head the list of honorees in concert night the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chaired by Eric Buhain and Samsung Electronics Phils. headed by its president and chief executive officer Sang Youl Eom are presenting.

Formalities for the concert, which is expected to be top-billed anew by Mr. Pure Energy Gary Valenciano, were sealed yesterday by Enrico Buan, vice chair of the project's finance committee and Buhain's executive secretary; Arsenic Lacson, chair of the overall project coordinating committee and head of PSC media relations; Jerry Lacson, Samsung senior marketing manager; and Angie Limbaco, Samsung advertising and promo manager.

"We want to welcome, celebrate and show appreciation to the RP contingent that saw action in Busan," said Buhain. "They did not only display their dedication and commitment for flag and country, but also flashed their camaraderie and passion for sports."

The Philippines also clinched seven silver and 16 bronze medals in the Busan Games. "But we are not only honoring the medallists but each and every Filipino athlete, even those who did not make it to Busan, for their support," added Buhain.

Besides honoring the athletes, the other objective is to generate awareness and drum up support for national athletes who continuously vie in international competitions. The event is also a fund-raiser for the athletes supplemental needs in their training and participation in international meets.

Gary Valenciano is expected to top bill the concert anew after stressing a promise he would honor the athletes when they come back from Busan during the Alay Sa Gintong Medalya sendoff concert last August 9.

"I want to be there when you come back from Korea and celebrate with you," Valenciano told the athletes in the sendoff concert also staged at the PhilSports Arena.

The PSC also intends to hold similar concerts in the Visayas and Mindanao next year to drum up support and awareness for Filipino athletes competing in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games Vietnam is hosting in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

La Salle golfest set at Sta. Elena

THE DE LA SALLE Alumni Association will hold a golf tournament on Nov. 25 at Sta. Elena. Tee off time is 6:30 a.m.

To be hosted by the College of Liberal Arts Chapter, the event is the first leg of the newly formed La Salle Golf Circuit.

Numerous raffle prizes await participants coming from different batch years.

For more details, call the DLSAA offices at 523-6158, or contact Franco Del Rosario at 0917-5374435.

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₱4-M PCA OPEN NETFEST

2 Koreans win, join Arevalo, Santos

FILIPINA bets Czarina Mae Arevalo and Patricia Santos found company in two Koreans after yesterday's second round of the P400,000 Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships at the PCA courts in Paco, Manila.

The third-ranked Kim, a finalist in the ITF Juniors Circuit in Indonesia last year, demolished Bien Zoleta, 6-0, 6-0, to advance against Karen Reyes, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Jocelyn Garcia.

Lee, the No. 4 seed who is playing in her first tournament as a pro, scored a 6-2, 6-1 victory over qualifier Rocio Matute to set up a second-round meeting with Ziarla Battad, who won by default over Catherine Flores.

Arevalo, who lost to Indian Sonal Phadke in the finals last year, walked over Janet Uy to advance against Julie Ann Cadiente, a 7-5, 6-0 winner over qualifier Divina Escala.

Santos, who reached the second round of the recently-held ITF Women's Circuit, stamped her class over Rina Ortiz, 6-0, 6-1, to advance against Berry Sepulveda, a 6-1, 6-1 winner over qualifier Katrina Lopez.

Charisse Godoy, Kristel Samala, Deena Rose Cruz, Alyssa Labay, Michelle Panis, Ivy de Castro, Shirley Valler, Sommer Bisagas and Petrona Bantay also gained second-round berths in this event presented by Dunlop and Accel with support from Chowking, Photokina, PBCOM, Coca Cola, San Miguel Corporation, PVL Restaurant-Little Lawrence, Toby's, Copacabana, Trans Asia Power and the Philippine Star.

In the juniors division, unseeded Patrick John Tierro ousted top seed Yannick Guba, 6-4, 6-4, to advance in the finals of the boys' 18-under division.

In the boys' 16-under class, No. 1 Jandrick de Castro rallied past Jimmy Tangalin, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3, while No. 1 Gerard Michael Ngo struggled past No. 3 Patrick Arevalo, 6-3, 7-5 and No. 2 Joshua Tan Ho outclassed No. 4 Mark Balce, 6-1, 6-1 to forge a final showdown in the boys' 12-under category.

In the girls' 14-under division, No. 1 Bambi Zoleta rallied past Jessica Agra, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, to advance in the finals against No. 2 Julie Em Botor, a 7-5, 6-0 winner over Trudy Amoranto.

Finalists in the girls' 12-under class were No. 1 Sarah Jane Lim, who beat Jia Marell Eleses, 6-1, 6-1, and No. 2 Nikki Manalo, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over Trudy Amoranto.

Yao shines as Rockets beat Lakers

By John Nadel
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES—The Houston Rockets have been patiently waiting for Yao Ming to display the talents of a first overall draft choice.

The 2.23-meter (7-foot-6) Chinese import did just that in the eighth game of his career — and against the three-time defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers, no less.

Yao shot 9-for-9 in scoring a career-high 20 points in 23 minutes, and also had six rebounds Sunday to help the Rockets beat the Lakers, 93-89.

Steve Francis scored 11 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Maurice Taylor had nine of his 12 in the final period for the Rockets (5-3), who snapped a seven-game losing streak to the Lakers.

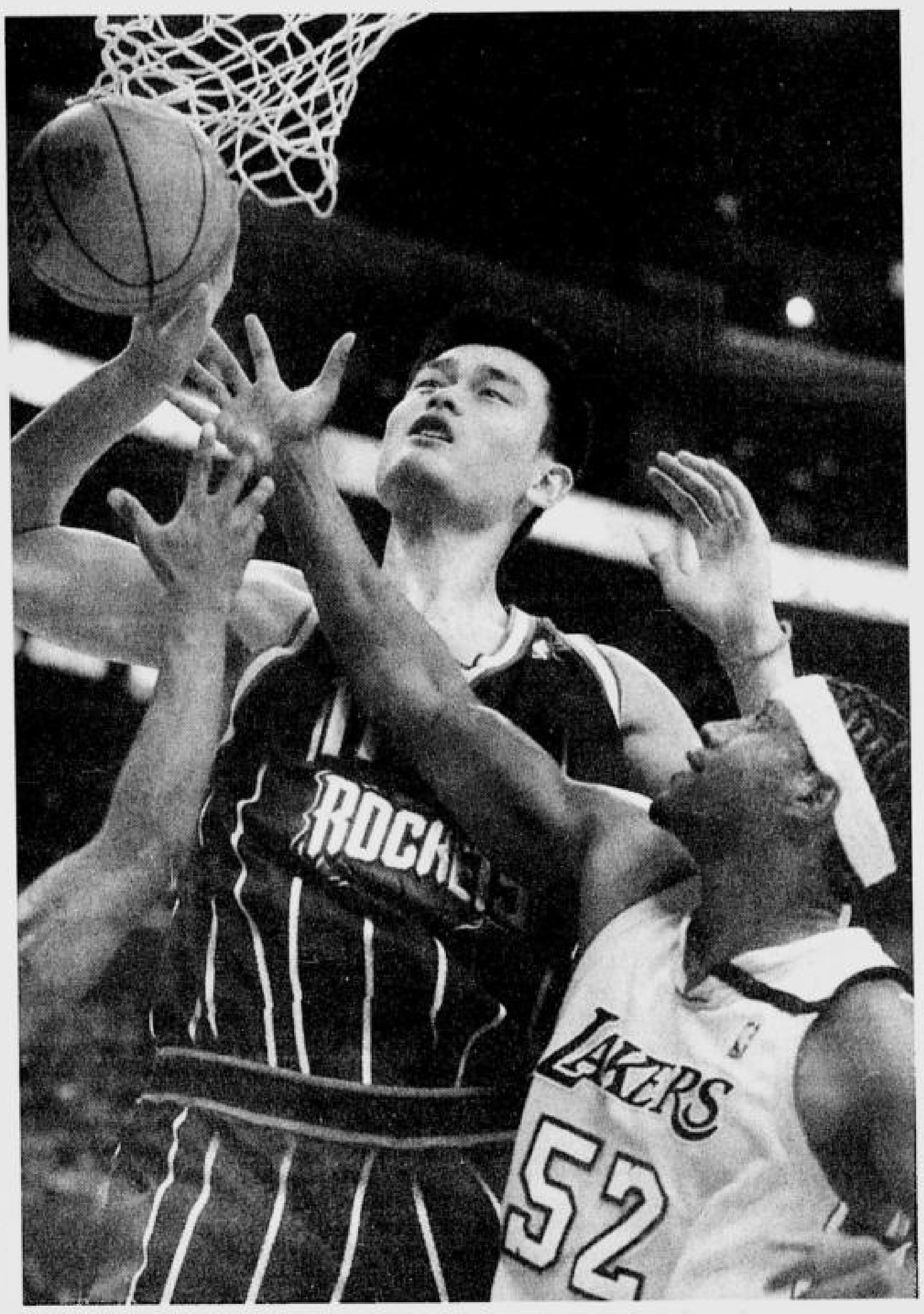
"He added to his highlight reel tonight," Lakers forward Rick Fox said of Yao. "He's been much-maligned as a No. 1 draft pick. You can't teach 7-6. This is an individual who can clearly play the game, he's no circus act. He's going to have more and more nights like this.

"He can speak clear English, too, which surprised me. I heard him talking to his teammates.".

The loss was the fifth in six games for the three-time defending NBA champion Lakers (3-7), again playing without Shaquille O'Neal — a development which no doubt worked to Yao's advantage.

"I guess it's luck," Yao said through an interpreter when asked about making every shot he took—nine field goals and two free throws. "For me, it's definitely a breakthrough."

Yao made six baskets in the second quarter and three baskets and a pair of free throws to complete three-point plays in the final period.



YAO beats Samaki Walker (right) of the Los Angeles Lakers for the rebound en route to scoring 20 points and grabbing six rebounds as the Rockets won, 93-89. Complete results: Sonics 84, Clippers 78; Jazz 82, Raptors 78; Sixers 100, Wizards 84; Kings 101, Magic 99. AP

Reynante's son rises, tops Tour qualifying

REYNANTE, son of cycling great Manuel Reynante, topped the Tour Pilipinas 2003 second prequalifying race on Sunday even as the national cyclists were finally allowed to race.

The young Reynante clocked 53 minutes and 58.41 seconds over the 40-km out-and-back course in Barangay Malaya, Pililla, Rizal, to easily barged into the Tour proper next summer.

But his effort was overshadowed somewhat by Eric Buhain's successful move to include national cyclists to the Tour.

Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, has ordered the lifting of the impasse that had chained the nation's riders to a silly ruling prohibiting them from joining bikathons.

This was a result of infighting between cycling officials warring over positions since the death of cycling boss Francisco Almeda.

National team coach Jomel Lorenzo bowed to Buhain in a positive development that augured well for the country's members of the cycling pool.

Warren Davadilla, the 1998 Centennial Tour champion, pedaled almost a shade below the 24-year-old Reynante's 44.66 kph conquest of Pililla to finish second at 56:36.51.

At third was Pangasinense Felix Celeste, the Tour veteran who flew in just recently from Italy where he is now based with his wife, at 57:06.61. Behind him at fourth was another national rider but a natural mountain biker under Oscar Rodriguez Jr., Eusebio Quionones (57:12.15).

And the old guards? They finished strongly with Placido Valdez coming in fifth (57:16.34), former two-time champion Renato Dolosa Sr. seventh—behind sixth-placer Rhyan Tanguilig (57:55.21)—at 58:00.46 and ex-back-to-back champion Carlo Guieb 10th at 58:35.97.

Filipino dancers masters of Latin

FILIPINO dancers asserted their mastery in the Amateur Latin competitions recently, snaring two of three gold medals staked in the IDSF Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships 2002 at the Philsports multi-purpose arena.

National champions Genice Marquez and Belinda Adora led the Philippines' romp by topping the Grade A division.

They were followed by youngsters Reynato Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio who ruled the junior Latin division.

The Youth Latin title went to the Japanese tandem of Yutaka Kubota and Miyuki Kubota, which bested John Erolle Melencio and Krystel Dame Tadeo for the gold.

Marquez and Adora bested Japanese Masaki Seko and Chiaki Sejko while the Mercado-Melencio duo defeated Chen Cheng and Zhan Li of the People's Republic of China.

In the Standard discipline, the brother and sister team of 14-year-old Brian and Kala Ocana bagged the bronze medal in the Youth event.

The Amateur Standard crown went to the Japanese pair of Kazuaki Watanabe and Yumi Watanabe, with Rico Rosima and Faye Salvador landing fourth and the husband and wife tandem of Jerswin and Anee Poloyapoy finishing fifth.

President Macapagal Arroyo congratulated the winners at the farewell dinner hosted by Nenita Floirendo.

The event was hosted by Dancespot Council of the Philippines headed by Becky Garcia, who was unanimously elected vice president of the Asia Dancesport Federation. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA - Toronto vs Atlanta, 8:30 a.m., Solar Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Yearbook 2001 - Chicago Bears, 8:30 a.m., St. Louis Rams, 9 a.m., ESPN
NFL Blast, 9:30 a.m., ESPN
NFL - Chicago Bears vs St. Louis Rams, 10 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN
NFL Insider - Play Like a Pro, 1:30 p.m. (r), ESPN
GOLF: UBS Warburg Cup 2002, 12 noon (r), Star Sports
Tiger Skins Golf 2002, 10 p.m., Star Sports
TENNIS: Masters Cup (Shanghai) Highlights, 7 a.m. (r), Star Sports
BILLIARDS: 2001 Trick Shot Magic, 6 p.m. (r), ESPN
POOL: Rack 'Em Up, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN
World Pool Masters 2002, 7 p.m., ESPN

Luzong to co-host ₱5-M 4-cocker

A GUARANTEED cash prize of P500,000 is up for grabs when the new Pililla Coliseum presents its Grand Inaugural 4-Cock Derby on Nov. 25, 27 and 29.

Entry fee is pegged at only P5,500 with a minimum bet requirement of only P3,300.

Hosted by Princess "Lady Pepper" Naldo and Lando "Mr. Karambola" Luzong, the 3-day event is expected to bring in to Pililla, Rizal droves of cockers from Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Cavite, Bulacan, Pampanga and Metro Manila.

Day champions (two-pointers) in the two separate elimination will get a share of the P100,000 day champion prize for each day.

Those who are interested to join are advised to make their slot reservations early at tel. 464-0052.

At press time, a total of 36 entries have already been listed which include Jimmy Dreyfuss, Costa Amonoy, Mommy Lilia Bolante, Benjie Ledesma, Ronnie Castro, Ben Belen, Dr. Matignas, Bert Galing, Kap. Ato Juan, Boyet Ynares, Ralph Policarpio, Capt. Dodge Bautista, Francis Manaloto, Ricky Aparri, Ferdie Ducepec and Dong Lacson.

Also confirmed to see action are Chito Liamson of San Mateo Cockpit, Dr. Ayong Lorenzo of Excellence, Ben Guevarra, Dr. Antonio Dictado, La Maria Farm, Dr. Noel Diasanta, Kap. Rey Francisco, Engr. Romy Panganiban, Mayor Bunoy Ramos, Henry Tan of Sariaya, Daddy Groovy, RJ Valor, Pedy and Manny Hilao, Boy Macaulay, Coun. Lito Tongohan, Mayor Nick Patenta, Cong. Lawrence Wacnang, Pol Garde, Lito Orillaza, Gene Avendaño and balikbayan Jessie Jorge from San Mateo County in California.

Urban jungle race slated

THE URBAN Jungle Adventure Race sponsored by San Mig Light looms as the biggest sporting event of its kind this year with more than 25 teams already registered in the Nov. 22-23 competition.

Over 20 other teams have also registered online via the internet portal and co-sponsor PinoyCentral. These entries will be accommodated first-come first served based on completion of registration requirements.

Teams entered in the competition's Advanced Category include the all-ladies team Lakambini, and mountaineering clubs and outdoor groups Trek-ADUMS, Team ni Tambi, GEC-Cancer Warriors, AMCI-One, UST-MC, Pitman, MMS 1, Cool Dudes and Poro Lacad-Loco. These teams, each composed of four racers and two support crew, shall race a maximum of 24 hours starting Nov. 23 in a 100-kilometer course with legs in running, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming, orienteering, rappelling among other physical and mental tasks.

Competing in the Fun Category are Team Camelbak, UST-MC II, Soil Slappers, ADUMS Malayang Hangin, BFRB, BFRB II, SHITMANONG AR, Explosive Force, Team Manila Dragons, Rowers Club Philippines, and MITMC-Adventure Team. Five teams initially entered in the Media and Celebrity Category include News Central, Wave, DWRX, DWNU and FHM Girls.

Luzon Breeders derby in Mandaluyong

ALL roads lead to the Mandaluyong Coliseum today as the much-awaited Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association 4th Stag Series 2002 7-Stag Championship Derby gets underway, bannering some 55 tough matches.

"I can guarantee that this derby will be very exciting from start to finish. Those who survived the series are definitely the best gamefowl breeders of Luzon," LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said.

The recent winners in the series were Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga Province (EDL Crowsland Excellence I) in the first leg; Dr. Gil Nicolas of Kalinga (632 Gamefarm III) in the second leg and lawyer Romero Yu/Joseph Chua of Batangas (Jopete Ray Showdown) and Dong Chung/William Go of Rizal (Liberty Gold Cup) in the third leg.

The LGBA Breeder of the Year 2002, who will receive a whopping prize of P500,000, will also be known after this derby.

The leading contenders are Rep. Lawrence Wacnang (EDL Crowsland Excellence I, 15 points); Edwin Aranes and Raffy Campos (Red, 13); Tolentino (San Pablo Heat II, 12.5); Diaz and Littaua (Purple Haze Arnis Master I, 11.5); Edmund Yasay (Wild Harvester, 11.5); Maj. Bobby Doromal (Buddy And Bob I, 11) and Jay de Jesus/Joe Alimbuyuguen/Dan Aruelo (DJ Alliance, 11).

Derby sponsors are Pit Fighter Feeds and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug, Thunderbird Enertone, Amtyl 500 of Excellence Gamefowl Specialists and Derby Ace from San Miguel Feeds.

For other details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

Don Bosco, Pangasinan's St. John's Cathedral prevail

DON BOSCO Academy of Pampanga and St. John's Cathedral of Pangasinan scored two victories each to take the lead in the recent Luzon finals of the Milo SBP/Passerelle basketball tournament at the Clark Airbase gym. The Bosconians crushed Baguio City National High, 91-70, and St. John Cathedral, 85-75, in the Passerelle division, while St. John whipped Lucena's Sacred Heart College, 74-22, and Don Bosco Academy, 47-26 in SBP.

In other games, Don Bosco ripped Vigan's Caoayan Central School, 78-34; University of Baguio Laboratory Elementary trimmed Sacred Heart, 48-45, but lost to Caoayan, 39-43; and Sacred Heart nosed out Caoayan, 44-43, in the SBP; and St. John clobbered St. Paul College of Ilocos Sur, 81-28; Baguio City National High whipped Maryhill College, 89-68, and St. Paul College, 105-52; and Maryhill College toppled St. Paul, 73-41, in the Passerelle bracket.

TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB
NOVEMBER 15, 2002

PUGAD LAWIN WINNERS
Pugad Lawin sa Northview (PLN) President Jose T. Malang (second from right) joins the division winners in the recently held 5th PLN Invitational Golf Tournament at Tagaytay Midlands. The winners include (second from left) Bernadette Jalosjos (Class C), Willy Balagot (Class B) and Boy Jalosjos (Class A). Flanking the winners are Tournament Coordinator Dong Go (left) and Ed Abores (right), Chair of the PLN ways and means committee.

PBL CHALLENGE CUP

LBC-Batangas, Montaña hurdle rivals

By Dennis U. Eroa

LBC-Batangas turned to its small men to subdue ICTSI-La Salle, 84-80, yesterday in the PBL Challenge Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

In the second game, Jenkins Mesina fueled a fourth-quarter breakaway as Montaña drubbed Cheeseballs-Shark, 76-62, to join LBC in second place with a 3-1 record.

Alex Compton, back after battling the flu, and former National University standout Froilan Baguion made the crucial plays as the Blades outgunned the Archers in the dying minutes. ICTSI dropped to 2-2. Cheeseballs absorbed its third straight setback after beating Sunkist in its debut.

The absence of Dino Aldeguer told heavily on ICTSI's bid as pointguards Rob Johnson and Orly Torrente failed to neutralize the LBC backcourt. Torrente, a journeyman, chipped in 11 points, including eight in the fourth period but was a liability in defense. Johnson managed to score eight points, but the Archers missed the all-around show of Aldeguer.

Aldeguer, key to ICTSI's past wins, was serving a one-game suspension after taking a swing at Cheeseballs-Shark Michael Robinson, who had earlier headbutted him, during the Archers, 77-74 win in an out-of-town game last Saturday in Lipa City.

Baguion, 5-foot-7, made two crucial assists, while Compton completed a three-point play off Torrente as the Blades made it 79-72, 1:38 remaining. Mark Cardona tried to rally ICTSI with four straight points, but the Blades gamely held on with Ralph Rivera snaring a crucial offensive rebound and Jason Cuevas hitting a free throw barely 12 seconds remaining.

ICTSI had a great start, 24-17, LBC, aided by hustle and fine field goal shooting, started to recover at the start of the third period. At one stretch, the Archers missed six consecutive shots, which powered the Blades to a 74-65 lead, 3:27 remaining.

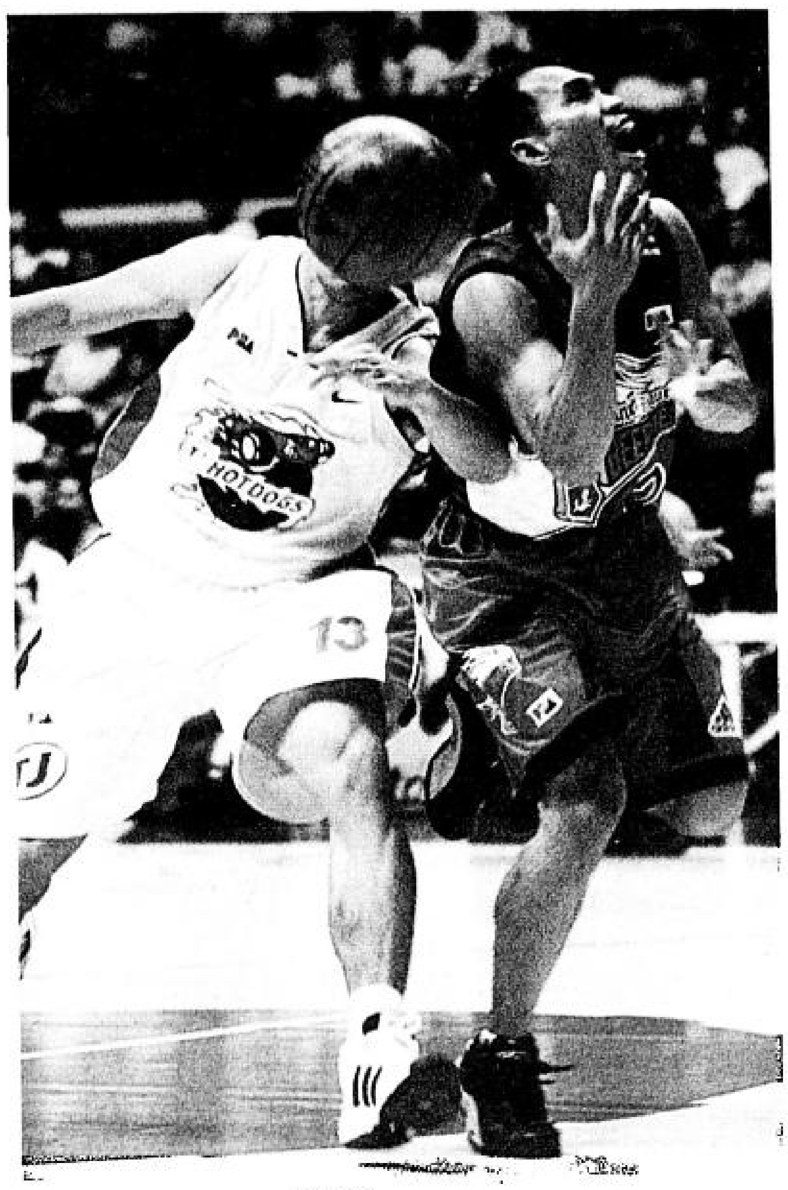
Swingman James Yap had a terrible outing, scoring a measly point on a 0 of 5 field goal shooting and playing with heavy legs, same with Joseph Yeo and Adonis Sta. Maria.

SCORES

LBC 84--Compton 19, Baguion 13, Caceres 11, Cuevas 11, Capati 10, Magpayo 7, Manabat 5, Roldan 4, Rivera 2, San Diego 2, Reguera 0, De Castro 0.

ICTSI 80--Cardona 20, Dacia 14, Hugnatan 12, Torrente 11, Sharma 10, Johnson 6, Franco 4, Yap 1, Uy 0, Sta. Maria 0.

Quarters: 17-24, 40-35, 57-55, 84-80



ALIEN

No, we have no alien here as Roger Yap (left) of Purefoods appears to have a ball for a head in this bit of action during the SMB-Purefoods game on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. At right is SMB's Joey Mente. SMB won, 81-66. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Valbuena elected to Asian council

VICTOR U. Valbuena, president of the Table Tennis Association of the Philippines, was elected to the powerful executive council of the Southeast Asian Table Tennis Association (SEATTA) during its recent council meeting in Karawaca, Indonesia.

The youthful and dynamic Tatap prexy was recognized for his efforts in reviving the sport in the country.

"We have been informed of his (Valbuena) aggressive promotion of the sport in the Philippines. We need someone like him to further advance our good cause in the Southeast Asian region," said SEATTA's secretary-genera1 Chan Foong Keong of Malaysia.

In only his first year as Tatap head, Valbuena worked for the revival of the regional and national open and improved relations with private supporters like LG Collins, Federal Express and Rustan's Group among others.

"I am grateful to the trust bestowed on me by officials of table tennis federations in the region. My thrust is to make the Philippines one of the powerhouses in Southeast Asian and hopefully give the region some pride international competitions of larger magnitude," said Valbuena.

Valbuena's priority is the development training, for the juniors, team which he is grooming to become the region's best when the Philippines host the Southeast Asian Games in 2005.

"We don't want to disappoint our countrymen who would be cheering for us when we play in front of them. That's why our investment now is focused on the young players," he said.

Tatap's first major hosting job under the leadership of Valbuena is the Southeast Asian Junior Table Tennis Championship set in April next year. The tournament will serve as regional qualifying for the Asian Championship also slated for next year.

The national team will be culled from the players that will excel in the National Open In December.

Tatap's secretary general Oscar S. Santelices was also elected deputy sec-gen of Seatta while RP referee Juan A. Tagle, Jr. was appointed member of the Rules Committee.

WHAT'S INSIDE

X'mas bounty awaits Uratex golfers A20
Yao stars as Rockets beat Lakers A21

Successful Alaska Football Cup held

ONCE again, Alaska was in the forefront of youth sports development with its staging last weekend of the Alaska Football Cup 2002, a football festival that, aside from helping hundreds of children develop their physical prowess in soccer every year, has also proven to be an excellent venue for helping kids to gain discipline.

It was also a forum to form proper values among kids--especially in the area of playing fair.

Now in its 7th year, the Alaska Football Cup has always adhered to the 10 Golden Rules of Fair Play in FIFA's Code of Conduct. These include playing to win, playing fair, respecting opponents and teammates, rejecting corruption, drugs and violence, and helping others to also resist corrupting pressures.

Alaska believes that if children take these rules to heart, they will become winner, both on the football field and in real life.

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Militants protest water rate hike /A24

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

2 suspected NPA men collared in Caloocan City /A24

HAUL

MANILA policemen display their haul in a current peace and order campaign in the city where 40 alleged drug users and gamblers were arrested. ERIK ARAZAS

Steep fines for litterbugs

By Jerome Aning

IF YOU smoke, don't throw your cigarette butt on the streets of Manila, or you might pay a fine of P5,000 to P10,000 if the butt is still lit.

Manila Councilor Ron Ramon Bagatsing also wants to impose a P25,000 fine litterbugs who are caught throwing on the streets "dangerous things" like glass bottles and syringes.

Bagatsing has filed a bill that would also completely overhaul Manila's garbage disposal system.

The 4th district alderman wants the city's garbage disposal to be supervised by the City Council instead of the mayor.

Under the bill, households and business establishments will have to pay for the disposal of garbage they produce. The fee would be determined by the amount of trash that is generated.

The system is dubbed "pay-by-volume" domestic waste collection service.

Bagatsing said the Council would provide businesses and households with authorized garbage containers, which will remain the property of the city. Fees would be collected annually.

He said a bigger number of "authorized" litter bins will be placed on streets and other public places. These garbage bins would discourage littering, which will be severely punished under the bill, according to Bagatsing.

Bagatsing has also proposed a P5,000 fine for littering streets with small items like bus tickets and bottle-caps, aside from stubbed out cigarette butts.

Similar fines would be imposed on those caught throwing litter from a vehicle.

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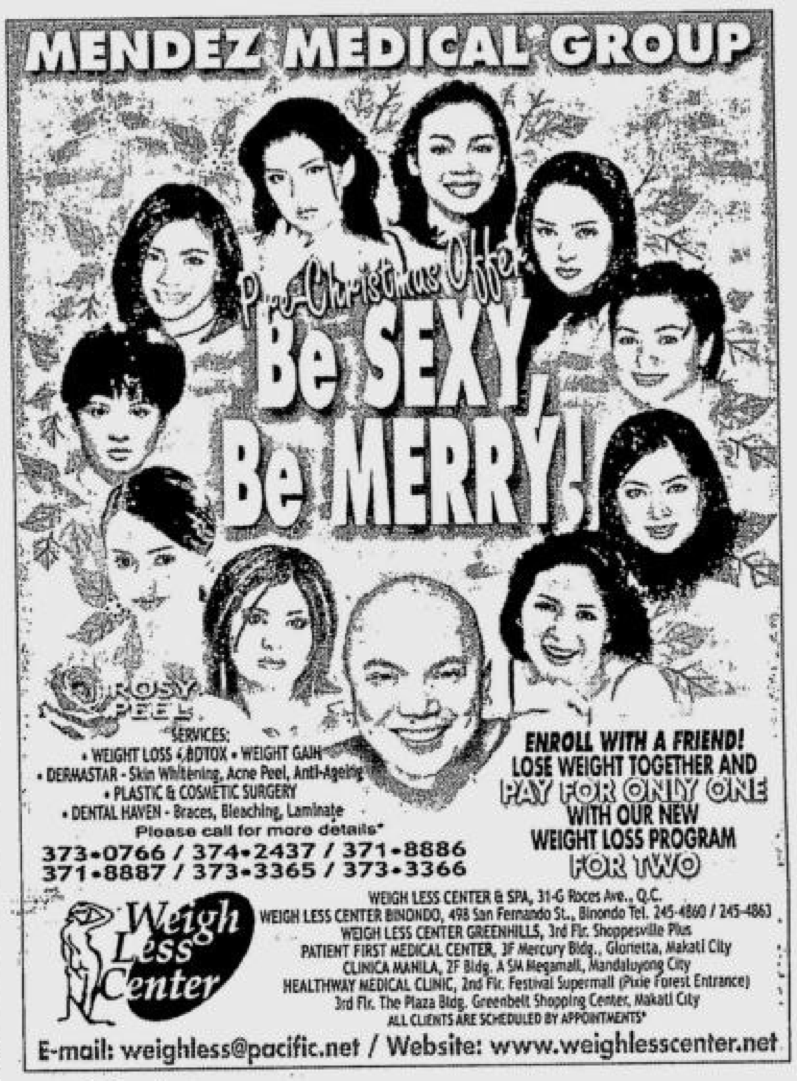

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Unexploded bomb found in LRT station

AN UNEXPLODED bomb on Sunday was discovered inside a can of milk powder that was left behind at a Light Rail Transit station in Manila two months ago, police said.

Explosive powder or TNT, a cell phone and wiring were found inside a can of Bear Brand powder milk that had not been claimed from the lost and found department of the LRT station since September, according to bomb experts.

LRT employee Gran Manjoe Patrocino III on Saturday took the unclaimed box of powder milk to his home in San Jose, Camarines Sur, said Insp. Lazaro Ablan, San Jose police chief.

He said that when Patrocino's nephew opened one of the milk cans on Sunday, the boy found the cell phone and wiring. A relative then alerted authorities, police said.

Camarines Sur police director Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla yesterday said that he had ordered the intelligence and bomb disposal units to determine the origin and circumstances of the bomb.

Bomb expert Senior Inspector Efren Sabuco said the milk can contained about two kilograms of what could be TNT and three blasting caps wired to the cell phone.

Ablan said that the bomb could be detonated with fire, electric current or by sympathetic detonation. He explained that the explosion is triggered with the use of a cell phone, which was also found inside the can.

He said the other cans in the box did not contain explosives.

Sabuco said that "maybe the bomb did not explode because the phone was low on battery, or there was no network signal because the cell phone was inside the sealed can."

Ablan added that the person who was supposed to call the cell phone might have forgotten its number.

He said that the TNT used in the bomb was of World War II vintage and was combined with nails for shrapnel.

Rongavilla said that local police have already coordinated with the police general headquarters in Camp Crame in Quezon City.

He also assured local residents that the discovery of the bomb had no serious implication to the peace and order situation in San Jose, Camarines Sur.

A series of bomb attacks last month killed 14 people and injured more than 200 others in Metro Manila and in Zamboanga.

No one has claimed responsibility for the bombings, but the government has blamed the southern bombings on the Abu Sayyaf group, which investigators have linked to al-Qaida. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and AP*

CA ruling paves way for airport auction

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE MANILA International Airport Authority has suffered another setback after it lost a multi-million realty tax exemption petition before the Court of Appeals.

In a nine-page decision penned by Associate Justice Ruben Reyes, the appellate court upheld the Pasay government's right to collect close to P1 billion in realty taxes from the MIAA.

The ruling cleared the way for the sale of substantial portions of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport through public auction, said Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad.

MIAA's P916,212,836 tax liability covers 14 commercial lots and equipment it acquired, and nine commercial improvements done by the airport authority between 1992 and 2001.

MIAA general manager Edgar Manda yesterday vowed to go to the Supreme Court to dispute the CA decision.

Should the MIAA lose at the high tribunal, the airport authority would be placed in "a very difficult situation" since it may have to pay about P1.7 billion in taxes to Pasay and Parañaque, according to Manda.

"Employees' benefits may have to be cancelled," he said. "Improvement and maintenance of the airport will also be stalled."

The MIAA earlier lost a similar tax petition before the Court of Appeals which, in effect, allowed the Parañaque government to auction off the NAIA because of its non-payment of about P722 million in realty tax.

In the latest CA ruling, the MIAA, a government owned and controlled corporation, claimed exemption from realty taxes which is supposedly prescribed by its own charter.

But the appellate court pointed out that the Local Government Code of 1992 had "unequivocally" withdrawn, upon its effectivity, real property tax exemptions to GOCCs, among others.

"The power of local government units under the Code to impose realty taxes upon (GOCCs)...is consistent with the State policy to ensure autonomy to local governments," the court said.

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QC cop arrested for responding late to a robbery

By Alcuin Papa

SPO1 Perfecto Umali of the Central Police District was placed under technical arrest after his superiors found out that it took him hours to respond to a robbery early yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Central Police District director Senior Supt. Napoleon Castro, also ordered the filing of administrative charges against Umali, 42, of Sta. Barbara Village, San Mateo, Rizal, and assigned to CPD Police Station 6 in Batasan.

Based on the investigation of SPO1 Rodrigo Barrameda of the Criminal Investigation Unit, a team from CPD Station 5 under a certain SPO1 Reder had radioed Umali's station for reinforcements regarding a robbery in San Pedro corner Villonco Streets, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City.

The desk officer of Station 6, PO1 Ricardo Llena, then dispatched Umali and his team.

But it took several hours for Umali's team to get to the area, which compromised the investigation of the robbery.

Members of Umali's team pointed to Umali as the cause for the delay.

When asked to explain why they were late, Umali told Castro that they could not find the scene of the crime.

Militants protest water rate hike

By Agnes E. Donato

MILITANT groups yesterday picketed the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) headquarters in Quezon City to protest the water rate hikes, which the two private water concessionaires will implement in January.

Members of consumer group Bantay Tubig said the Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Service Inc. (MWSI) will increase its rates from the current P15.46 to P30 per cubic meter, while the Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. Inc. (MWCI) will raise its rates from P6.75 to P25 per cubic meter.

But MWSS regulator Eduardo Santos explained that the actual rate increase will be lower than Bantay Tubig's figures.

Santos said the consumer group based their figures on the petition the concessionaires submitted to the MWSS.

Santos told the INQUIRER that the MWSS regulatory office had recommended for Maynilad an adjusted rate of around P17 per cubic meter, including "add-ons" such as the Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (CERA) and the Special Transitory Mechanism (STM).

For MWCI, the MWSS regulators had recommended an adjusted rate of around P26, including the add-ons.

"But we are still in the process of consulting the public," he said.

Meanwhile, Bantay Tubig spokesperson Jude Esguerra hit the MWSS regulatory office for allegedly siding with the water companies and not with the consumers.

"These water rates hikes are unjust primarily because the services of these water suppliers have not improved," Esguerra said.

He complained that so many areas have yet to have water connection, while households that are connected to either of the two companies have to make do with poor services such as limited water supply and leaks.

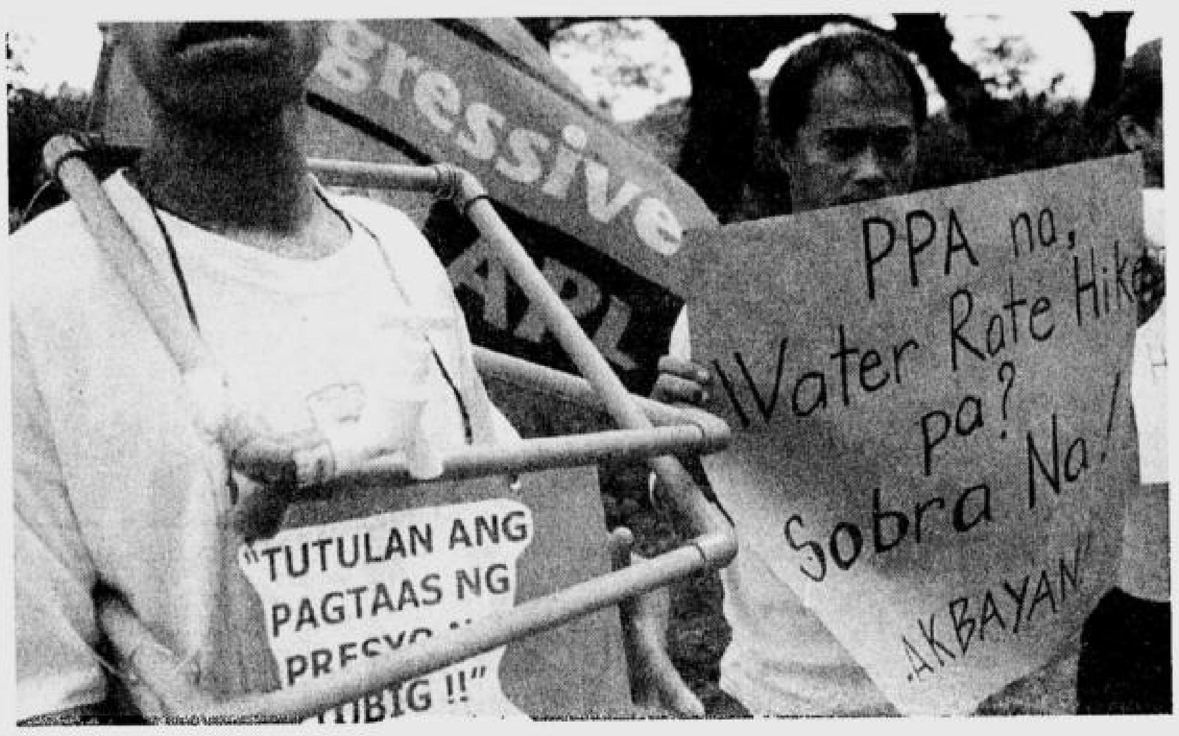
Esguerra maintained that the planned rate hikes violated the MWSS' privatization contract, which provided that the water concessionaires could not increase their prices for 25 years.

"The water company was privatized only five years ago, but the two water concessionaires are already asking for a price increase," he said.

Santos however maintained that the planned hike was not a price increase per se, but "a rate re-basing" which, he said, is a result of the MWSS' evaluation of the performance of the water concessionaires.

"It is provided in the MWSS privatization contract that a rate re-basing be done every five years so we can check the efficiency and prudence of the service being given by Maynilad and MWCI," he said.

If approved before the end of the year, the rate adjustment will take effect in January. Otherwise, water concessionaires will have to wait until the beginning of 2004.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"TUTULAN ANG PAGTAAS NG PRESYO ... TUBIG !!"

PLACARD-BEARING members of consumer group Bantay Tubig hold a rally outside the MWSS main office in Balara, Quezon City to protest the planned increase in water rates in January.

JOAN BONDOC

2 suspected NPA men collared in Caloocan City

By Tina Santos and Alcuin Papa

TWO SUSPECTED members of the New People's Army and a third man posing as a communist hit man were arrested in Caloocan City over the weekend, according to the National Capital Region Police Office.

Police identified the two NPA men as Nestor Perez and Marino Gaddi.

The third man who passed himself off as a member of the Sparrow Unit, the hit squad of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was identified as Crisanto Cervantes, said Senior Supt. Benjardi Mantele, Caloocan City police chief.

In a press conference in Quezon City yesterday, NCRPO chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said Perez, 26, and Gaddi, 35, were arrested along Rizal Avenue Extension, Caloocan City at around noon on Sunday.

During investigation, Perez at first told police that he was a welder and Gaddi a laborer. But upon verification, police found out they were farmers from Barangay Behilia in Tiaong, Quezon.

Members of a Caloocan mobile patrol unit said they noticed something suspicious about Perez and Gaddi, who were on board a red-and-black striped Honda XRM motorcycle.

When the lawmen accosted the suspects, the driver failed to present his driver's licence and registration paper of the motorcycle.

The patrolmen then inspected the motorcycle's compartment and found a .45-caliber pistol, two magazines, 14 rounds of ammunition and a fragmentation grenade.

The suspects also failed to present the gun's permit and authorization to carry firearms, .which led to their arrest.

Authorities insist the suspects are NPA members, but the two men have refused to talk to reporters to confirm the police claim.

Cervantes, 26, was arrested at around 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Mantele said.

Cervantes, a native of Davao City and a resident of Gen. Miguel Street, Sangandaan, Caloocan, introduced himself as a member of the Sparrow Unit and tried to collect "revolutionary tax" from bakery owner Mario Rosales, 39, of 11th Avenue, Caloocan.

Rosales complained to police that the suspect, along with two unidentified men, demanded from him P100,000 in revolutionary tax.

Policemen under Supt. Dionicio Borromeo promptly arrested the suspect in an entrapment.

Policemen stumped over Tondo killing

By Philip Tubeza

POLICEMEN are stumped over the killing of Rommel Valisno, 22, in Tondo, Manila on Sunday.

Valisno came down all the way from Meycauayan, Bulacan to attend the birthday party of his friend Peter John Manalo on Banahaw Street, Balut, Tondo, said Detective Dabilo Vidad, of the Western Police District Homicide Section.

At around 9:50 p.m., the celebration ended and the partygoers left Manalo's house. Suddenly, a single gunshot rang out in the darkness and the partygoers were shocked to see a bleeding Valisno hit the ground, Vidad said.

The victim's friends took him to the Tondo Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival, Vidad said.

Tondo barangay officials arrived at the scene and recovered a Paltik .38-caliber used in the shooting.

But no one among the victim's companions could tell the police where the gun came from or who dropped it because of the ensuing confusion, Vidad said.

He said policemen are now trying to find witnesses to the killing. Investigators are also looking into the possibility that the culprit may have also attended Manalo's birthday party.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 19, 2002
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rev 3:1-6, 14-22
Gospel: Lk 19:1-10

When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, a man named Zaccheus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today." So Zaccheus hurried down and received him joyfully.

All the people who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest." But Zaccheus spoke to Jesus, "The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much." Looking at him Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Commentary

Zaccheus' call by Jesus is a life program for any Christian: "Come down!" We can imagine Zaccheus as a man living according to the level of his wealth, of his well-guarded house. His car would have tinted glass windows and air conditioning. He was not mixing with common people. But Jesus calls him to come down to earth, to enter into contact with reality, with the poor and simple people whom he had stolen so much from. And conversion springs up from there. Maybe the best place to read this Gospel and to listen to Jesus is in the street, near our brothers and sisters. There the words of Jesus gain a new meaning.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Extrinsic or collateral fraud—Fraud is extrinsic or collateral where it prevents a party from having a trial, or real contest, or from presenting all of his case to the court, or where it operates upon matters pertaining, not to the judgment itself, but to the manner in which it was procured so that there is never a fair submission of the controversy. In other words, extrinsic fraud refers to any fraudulent act of the prevailing party in the litigation which is committed outside of trial of the case, whereby the defeated party has been prevented from exhibiting fully his side of the case, by fraud or deception practiced on him by his opponent. Further, it must be emphasized that the fraud or deceit cannot be of the losing party's own doing, no must it contribute to it. The extrinsic fraud must be employed against it by the adverse party, who because of some trick, artifice, or device naturally prevails in the suit. The end result not only defeats legitimate rights of the losing party in the lawsuit. On a larger scale, it circumvents the adversarial system of our litigation process and makes a mockery of our judicial contests. That instead of having two antagonists who genuinely compete to fully ventilate their cause and demolish that of his opponent's, what transpires is a scripted theatrical drama played before the august hall of an officer of the court. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Puno, First Division, People v. Verra, G. R. No. 134732, May 29, 2002] DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Enforcer sacked for fleecing Spaniard

By Leila B. Salaverria

TRAFFIC enforcer Roberto Ormoc was sacked after he was proven guilty of extorting money from Spaniard Maria Jesusa Salvador in Makati City on Nov. 14.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay ordered Director Herminigildo San Miguel to dismiss Ormoc after Salvador, 31, filed a robbery extortion complaint with the Makati police.

Salvador, who works for a non-government organization, told police that Ormoc accosted her for jaywalking along Makati Avenue last Nov. 14. She said she was on her way home to Legaspi Village.

Ormoc allegedly threatened to send Salvador to jail if she would not cough up P300, the victim said.

After paying the amount, she asked for an official ticket, but Ormoc only gave her a piece of paper where he wrote down her offense, she said.

Binay yesterday said in a statement that this was not the first time a traffic enforcer had committed an offense.

He said he had placed 10 Mapsa anti-pollution enforcers on indefinite suspension for asking P500 from a motorist.

Villarama is in a bind

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

NOW THAT that Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama have kissed and made up, what will happen to the congressman's exposé about the "million-dollar" Cabinet member?

Will Villarama still come out with the identity of the Cabinet secretary who supposedly received a $2-million payoff?

Perez said after a meeting with Villarama that it was not he the Bulacan congressman was alluding to.

* * *

Then, who the hell is that Cabinet member that Villarama alluded to in his privilege speech?

Villarama is in a bind. If he doesn't identify the Cabinet secretary, people cannot help thinking he has been given a share of the supposed dollar pay-off. If he does come out with the identity of the Cabinet secretary, who will he name since he has already absolved Perez?

The Bulacan congressman has painted himself into a corner.

* * *

Sen. Panfilo Lacson has pointed to Perez as the one Villarama was alluding to in his privilege speech.

Villarama said he did not identify the "million dollar" Cabinet official because there was only a number and no name on the document that he was holding purportedly transferring the $2-million payoff to a bank account in Hong Kong.

Because of Lacson, everybody thinks the Cabinet official is Nani Perez.

* * *

If he was not alluding to Perez as the "million-dollar man," Villarama should name the concerned Cabinet official.

It's only fair to Nani Perez that the Bulacan congressman disclose the identity of the Cabinet member he referred to in his privilege speech.

It's incumbent upon Villarama to clear the name of an innocent man.

* * *

"*Bakla siguro yang si Villarama* (Villarama is probably a homosexual)," said a vendor I talked with over the weekend.

"Imagine, coming out with half an exposé and not completing it," said the vendor.

The Tagalog term for what Villarama did is "*alanganin*" (half-baked). *Alanganin* also refers to the gender of homosexuals: part man, part woman.

* * *

Homosexual or not, Villarama will not get away with his caper. He will be forced to reveal the identity of the Cabinet official before the halls of Congress.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the Bulacan congressman can be sanctioned by the House of Representatives by way of contempt, suspension or expulsion.

Villarama should not have opened his mouth. Before he made that "half exposé," he was a legislator very much respected by his peers and the public.

* * *

Mayor Edward Hagedorn arrived in Puerto Princesa Sunday to the beat of drums and the cheers of his supporters. Hagedorn defeated Mayor Dennis Socrates in a recall election some months ago.

When I left Puerto Princesa Monday morning, Hagedorn was sworn in as city mayor by Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes. Ironically, Reyes defeated Hagedorn in the gubernatorial race last year.

His swearing in before Reyes was seen by residents as a reconciliation between the former bitter political rivals.

"The political climate in Palawan will improve, Mon, because the two political giants have reconciled. Both are men of their word," said a businessman.

* * *

Peter Tan Kheang Teck, a Singaporean expatriate, was driving a Toyota Corolla on March 26, 1996, when he collided head-on with a car driven by Marie Cielito M. Paule, a 25-year-old office executive. Paule died on the spot.

Teck was heading toward Manila, while Paule was Laguna bound when the mishap took place. Teck's car jumped the island separating the north and south-bound lanes and went right smack into the Paule's vehicle who was heading in the opposite direction.

Teck was charged in court with homicide through reckless imprudence, but he's beyond the court's reach now. He has gone back to Singapore.

* * *

Teck was employed by Universal Robina Corp. (URC) as a technical consultant. The car he was driving was a service vehicle from URC.

Paule's parents, therefore, are blaming URC for not preventing Teck from leaving the country.

"They knew that Teck had a pending court case, why did they allow him to leave?" said Dr. Carmen M. Paule, the victim's mother.

* * *

Reacting to the item in this space about him last Thursday, Parañaque Rep. Eduardo C. Zialcita said this writer "was misinformed about and (has) not been fed the whole picture of the story."

"The Multi-National Village Homeowners' Association (MVHAI) has been illegally asking exorbitant fees and moneys (*sic*) from private vehicle (owners) despite my relentless pleas to them for the longest time. There is a city resolution attesting to Kaingin Road as a city road," he said in a letter.

He added: "Many of my poor constituents have gone to me countless times asking my help regarding this matter, to unburden them with unnecessary financial load. There are also poor hapless victims of social injustice, for every time they will not shell out their 'tongs', they will not be allowed passage through this route. And adding to their daily woes are the rude, arrogant and 'martial-rule' type of security guards from Fuentes Security Agency."

I'm sure it was not Congressman Zialcita who wrote that letter. A man, who puts a Ph.D title after his name, doesn't write that way.

Unexpected victories at the 8th Katha Awards

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THE KATHA Music Awards is not a people's choice award. Artists who win a Katha earn it by coming out with exceptional works. Popularity is not an important factor."

That was Katha president Trina Belamide who gave the INQUIRER some tips on how a singer, songwriter, composer or a producer can snatch a Katha award or two.

The Katha Awards, Belamide pointed out, is a tribute to artists for their outstanding achievements in songwriting, performing and other related fields.

The 8th Katha Awards held at the Philsports Complex (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City last Nov. 16 opened with a star-studded production number featuring past Katha awardees Pilita Corrales, Randy Santiago, Janno Gibbs, Radha, Agot Isidro, Roselle Nava and award's host Pops Fernandez belting out award-winning songs.

The other hosts—Sharon Cuneta, Sen. Tito Sotto III, Vic Sotto and Joey de Leon—made the four-hour-long ceremony quite enjoyable.

Cuneta was unusually witty with her remarks while the TVJ trio were hilarious with their antics.

Cuneta sang several hits of Jose Mari Chan, who is this year's Katha Lifetime Achievement awardee.

World-class music

Last Saturday's awards ceremony was just like how Belamide described it—"a show honoring not popular or highly-commercialized tunes, but world-class music and exceptional talents."

Composer Jungee Marcelo won the most awards that night, bagging nine trophies out of his 13 nominations. He won the highly coveted Producer of the Year and Album of the Year awards for "Papuri 18 Altarnatibo." He also won the Record of the Year award for Cathy Amaca's "Yahweh Elohim," which he produced under Papuri Music.

Amaca's "Yahweh Elohim" beat 17:28's "Network I" and South Border's "Habang Atin ang Gabi," the theme of Rosanna Roces' award-winning movie, "La Vida Rosa."

"Yahweh Elohim" also won the best gospel song trophy and earned for Gerdie Francisco, the best instrumental arrangement award.

Eugine Caliao and May Ann Casal Soriano were the unexpected winners in the best pop vocal collaboration category for their song "Uwian Na."

The duo won over more popular pop duets Ogie Alcasid and Regine Veleasquez ("Hanggang Ngayon"), Janno Gibbs and Vernie Varga ("Umagang Kay Ganda"), Gibbs and Freestyle ("Paano") and Alcasid and Lani Misalucha ("One").

Best performers

Radha Cuadrado ("You Can Make It Happen") copped the best pop female vocal performance award, besting renowned singers Lea Salonga ("Pinoy Pop Medley"), Carol Banawa ("Stay"), Dessa ("No Less") and Dianne de la Fuente ("I am Light").

Best pop male vocal performer Jim San Juan ("Dagat") won over favorites Dingdong Avanzado ("Pagsapit ng Pasko"), Rannie Raymundo ("Oras") and Rico J. Puno ("Sorry Ka Na Lang").

The young four-piece act 17:28 edged out veteran performer South Border (nominated for "Habang Atin ang Gabi," "All I Want" and "Walk With God") in the best pop vocal performance by a duo or group category for the song "Network I."

"Network I" also won the best dance composition and best dance music vocal performance awards for 17:28.

Twenty-two-year-old Jonathan Manalo won the best R&B song for "Tara Tena." He was up against such well-known composers as Belamide ("Heartbreaker"), Durias ("The Way You Do"), Mike Luis ("True Luv") and Metropop third-prize winner Dennis Garcia ("Heaven Sent").

"Tara Tena" also won the best R&B song vocal performance award for singers Kyla, Kaya and V3, and the best vocal arrangement award for Manalo.

Belamide said Katha does not "purposely pick unknown people to become winners." "There are popular artists who consistently create good music, too," she said. "*Basta magaling, may* chance *magka*-award."

She was referring to the group South Border that snatched best pop album honors from Carol Banawa ("Transition") and Dessa ("Respect") that night.

Durias, the band's producer and principal songwriter, tied with Moy Ortiz and the Gallardo sisters in the best pop song category.

Durias won for "Habang Atin ang Gabi," while Ortiz, Edith and Margot Gallardo won for their work on Aiza Seguerra's hit ditty, "Pagdating ng Panahon."

South Border also took home the best engineered recording citation for "Habang Atin ang Gabi."

Meanwhile, Kevin Roy and Cookie Chua (for the song "Jam") emerged as winners of the best rock vocal performance award after competing against the Eraserheads ("Maskara"), Rivermaya ("Alab ng Puso") and Wolfgang ("No Falter" and "Revolution Now"). "Jam" also won the best rock song.

Jim Paredes took home the best jazz solo vocal composition plum for writing Lynn Sherman's "Feeling Guilty," while Sherman won the best jazz solo vocal performance award.

Award-winning

Lea Salonga brought home a trophy (best Pinoy traditional pop song vocal performance) for her song "Tukso" from her album "Songs from the Screen," under BMG Records Pilipinas.

Multi-awarded composer Louie Ocampo added another trophy to his collection by winning the best traditional song citation for Martin Nievera's "Paguwi." Ocampo co-wrote "Pag-uwi" with equally talented composer Joey Ayala.

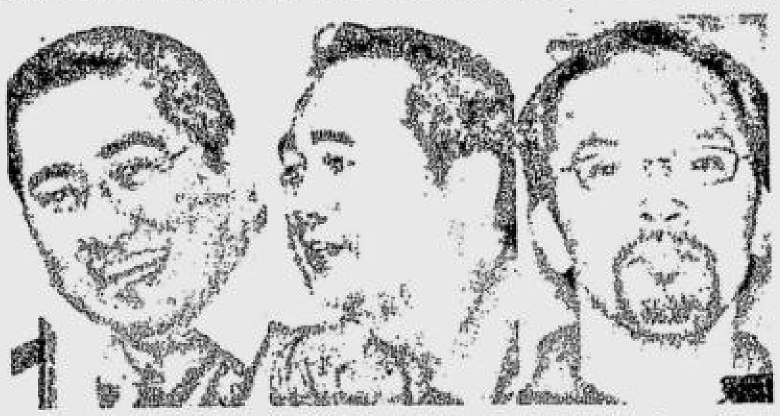
Lani Misalucha beat Nievera, Dessa, Banawa and Robert Seña in the best traditional song vocal performance category for "Kasal Sa Kaluluwa." She also won an award as the best folk song vocal performer for "Ina," the theme from the movie "Abakada... Ina," starring Lorna Tolentino and the late Nida Blanca.

"Dahil Nariyan Ka" by Noel Cabangon was judged best folk song.

Katha also honored artists who belong to other exceptional genres like Squid 9 ("Superpreset"), the group that took home the best techno/electronic music composition award and The Brownbeat All Stars, which

UNEXPECTED/ A27

MR. SONGWRITER AND MEGASTAR. Lifetime Achievement awardee Jose Mari Chan sings his hit compositions with Sharon Cuneta.



WINNERS ALL. Jungee Marcelo with nine awards; Jim San Juan, best pop male performer; and Noel Cabangon, best pinoy folk song composer .

PHOTOS BY DENNIS SABANGAN

'Singers' who can't sing

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE PHILIPPINES is famous for its singers and their superior musical talent. Most Filipinos love to sing and can carry a tune, and quite a number are very, very good. Go to any singalong bar and you'll hear abundant proof of this, as complete unknowns stagger listeners with their fantastic vocal quality and range.

True, many of them simply ape the singing styles of foreign singers, so their performances aren't their own. But, when it comes to vocal quality, Filipino singers can't be best.

Which makes us wonder: why are so many non-singers getting to "sing" on television? You would think that, with so much genuine musical talent in our midst, only the best singers would be allowed to perform on TV.

But this isn't true at all, as you can hear for yourself when you catch local noontime and weekend shows on the tube. One lousy singer after another tries to whisper or croak his or her way through an already simple song, as viewer's ears suffer from the relentlessly dissonant assault of so many non-talents.

What's going on here? Well, many of the non-singers who "sing" on television are TV or movie starlets, goodlooking young things with their respective troops of fans.

So, why do these non-singing starlets have to sing? Why can't they just talk, dance or engage in other "entertaining" activities that aren't harmful to listeners eardrums? Because Filipino talents are expected to sing—even if they can't!

"Singing" is also an easy way for the starlets to project themselves, their appeal and their interaction with their "love team" partner. And, when they appear in shows in the provinces or abroad, all they have to do is bring a tape of their songs and lip-sync to it, and their participation in those shows is taken care of, no sweat.

Trouble is, their "singing" is such a pain, and it's time for suffering listeners to complain. We shouldn't be subjected to this aural torture, especially not in the Philippines, where every fifth person in the streets could give some name singers a run for their money.

Of course, the non-singing starlets' fans don't complain about their lousy voices, because to them, their idols can do no wrong. So, it behooves us non-fans to call the offending TV shows that feature these non-singers, and rap them for making us suffer.

Ironically, some of these lousy singers know that they're doing badly. A movie star who's cut two records keeps apologizing for her lack of singing talent—well she should! And yet, she continues making money out of her un-talent, "whispering" her songs instead of really singing them, so that listeners can't even recognize the tunes she's murdering.

And what about the teen actor who is being built up as tomorrow's Richard Gomez or Aga Muhlach? When he "sings" duets with his hapless, love team partner, her fixed smile is paired, because she's suffering as much as the members of the audience from his "croaking monotone" version of carrying a tune.

Macho groups are also guilty of non-singing performances. They may pass muster when they're singing as a group (there's safety in numbers.? Misery loves company?)—but, when each member does a solo, it's penance time for the audience.

Many of these machos "sing" so badly that they have to take off their shirts and flex their muscles to distract listeners from their ordeal. But some sing so terribly that they'd have to go totally nude to achieve the requisite level of distraction!

Trendy watches with no curfew

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

THE TIME-TESTED friends I have fondly call me dOwly because I've always been a nocturnal creature. I get my juiciest ideas at night. As a poster in my pad reads, "Life begins at 3 a.m.!"

I savor all the sides of midnight. That's why I didn't even have to think twice when the hip and trendy watch store No Curfew (5th Level Shangri-la Plaza Mall) asked me to be one of their image models (with **Ryan Agoncillo** and **Kyla**). More stars will soon be part of the funky "NC" family.

The name of the shop is so me. And I'm sure my fellow partyphiles can also identify with it.

I like what the shop's name connotes—having no boundaries, making your own rules and just being comfy with who you really are. It captures the essence of what it means to be—a free spirit.

Unlike other watch stores that offer only one brand or only a particular style of watches, NC has an impressive array of watches to choose from. It showcases timepieces to suit every need, taste and budget. It carries the latest and most hi-tech watches and chronometers in the world such as Benetton, Circa, Eco-drive, Pro-Master and XC by Citizen, OHM Sports, Oxbow, T-Touch by Tissot, Tom Tailor and Xonix.

Recently, NC threw a ball for MTV Fashionista and it was a rousing success. Chic and cool party people proudly flashed their NC watches.

NC will keep on coming up with exciting events for zany people like me who believe that fun ought to be a 24-hour thing. It's all in the attitude.

On Nov. 30, NC presents "The World of Music Beats On at the Shang." Watch the UP Jazz Ensemble with Kyla as guest host.

On Dec 14, the Metro Jazz Orchestra plays memorable jazz tunes and Christmas carols in a swinging concert.

We may not be able to freeze nor turn back the hands of time, but we can relish its passing with flair if our watch does not make it seem like we are stuck in a time warp.

Come check out No Curfew's classy watches and be a certified fun-loving party animal like me!

NO CURFEW at MTV Fashionista ball.

Book-signing event

ALLIANCE Francaise de Manille presents "Catalogue of Philippine Stereoviews," a book signing event by **Christian Perez.**

An important guide for stereoview collectors and dealers, historians or anyone interested in Philippine history, the book contains an impressive number of illustrated stereoviews on the Philippines and the Phil-Am war that make for significant visual references.

Christian Perez has been living in Manila for more than 20 years now and started with collecting antique books, maps and prints on the Philippines before becoming thoroughly fascinated with stereoviews. He currently considers these as his main collecting passion.

Aside from being at Alliance to sign the book, he will also give a demonstration on how vintage stereoviewers work, using stereoviews from his own collection.

Book signing is Nov. 21, 6:30 pm at Alliance Francaise de Manille (209 Nicanor Garcia Streer Bel-Air II, Makati). For more information, call 895-7585 or 895-7441.

Personal

BIRTHDAY cheers to **Arnold Valencia,** a friend who has redefined the meaning of fun for me.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare @yahoo.com

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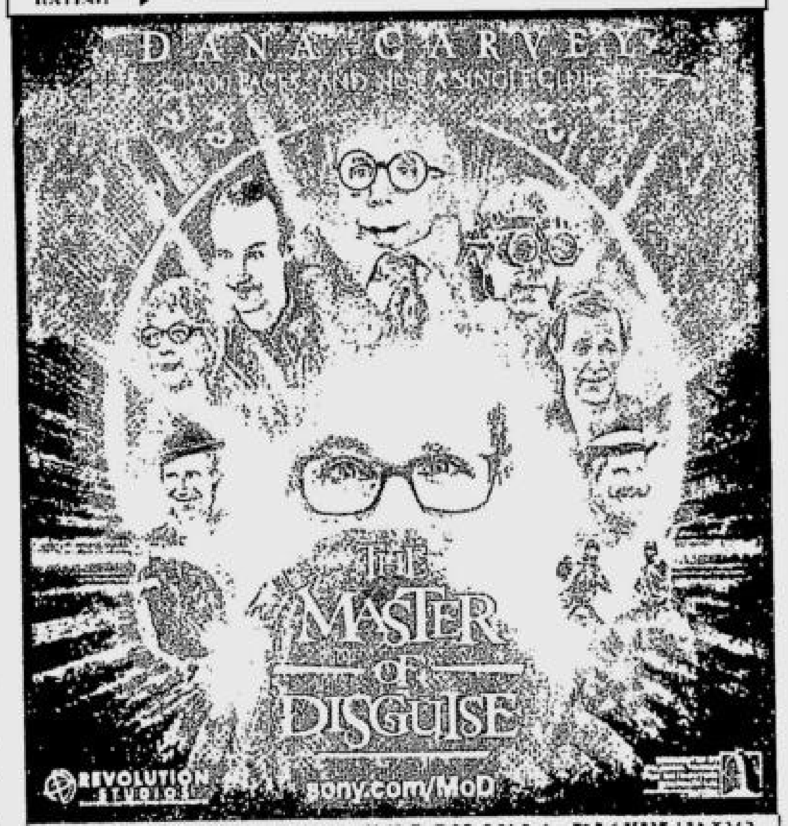

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1	TRANSPORTER
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	GHOST SHIP

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 · 7161416

1	KAILANGAN KITA
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	MASARAP NA PUGAD
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	HIBLA
10	SWEET HOME ALABAMA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	TRANSPORTER
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	HIBLA
10	GHOST SHIP
11	SEX FILES
12	MASARAP NA PUGAD

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	TRANSPORTER
3	HIBLA
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	HARY POTTER 2
7	CHANGING LANES
8	GHOST SHIP
9	HARY POTTER 2
10	HARY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	KAILANGAN KITA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 · 6329401

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	GHOST SHIP
7	CHANGING LANES
8	HIBLA
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	HARRY POTTER 2
11	HIBLA
12	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	TRANSPORTER
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HIBLA
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	HIBLA
2	GHOST SHIP
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HARRY POTTER 2
5	MASARAP NA PUGAD
6	SEX FILES
7	HARRY POTTER 2
8	HARRY POTTER 2
9	KAILANGAN KITA
10	TRANSPORTER

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	CHANGING LANES
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	SEX FILES
7	KAILANGAN KITA
8	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SEX FILES
2	CLOSED
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER 2
7	CLOSED
8	RED DRAGON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	KAILANGAN KITA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	HIBLA
2	HARRY POTTER 2
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HARRY POTTER 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	HARRY POTTER 2
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	HARRY POTTER 2
6	CHANGING LANES

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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1	HARRY POTTER 2
2	HIBLA
3	INTERSTATE 60
4	HARRY POTTER 2

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1	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 12:30 FS/1:00 MF/4:20/7:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:50 END
2	HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS 11:50 FS/12:20 MF/3:40/7:00/ 9:50 LFS/10:20 LMF/1:10 END

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4	GHOST SHIP
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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8	KAILANGAN KITA
9	SEX FILES
10	THE TRANSPORTER

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4	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
5	HIBLA
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
7	KAILANGAN KITA

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1	SEX FILES
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	THE TRANSPORTER
5	HIBLA
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
8	MASARAP NA PUGAD

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3	THETRANSPORTER
4	GHOST SHIP
5	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
6	KAILANGAN KITA
7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
8	HIBLA

Malabon Citisquare 285-7671 / 7675

1	HIBLA
2	OPENS NOV. 27- DIE ANOTHER DAY
3	OPENS NOV. 20- GISING NA SI ADAN
4	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

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1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
2	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	HIBLA
5	SEX FILES
6	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

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2	HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
3	HARRY POTTER & THA CHAMBER OF SECRETS
4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES
6	HIBLA

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1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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3	KAILANGAN KITA
4	BEDTIME STORIES
5	"O"
6	FRAILTY

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1	HARRY POTTER & THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS
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4	KAILANGAN KITA
5	SEX FILES
6	DALAGINDING

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Unexpected…

From page A25

was heralded as this year's best Ska performers.

Cabangon won both the best reggae song and best reggae song vocal performance awards for his work on "K Naman," under Star Records.

Best world music performer is Amaca for "Yahweh Elohim" under Papuri Music, while the best world music composition was handed to Mel Villena's team for the song "Kawikaan."

Best new age song performer is Jingle Buena, while "Hininga" is best new age composition.

A special citation was given to master composer Ryan Cayabyab for "Mass for Peace" (most outstanding gospel album of the year) and "One More" (most outstanding a capella album).

According to Belamide, members of Katha and other industry practitioners from organizations like the OPM (Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit), AMP (Asosasyon ng Musikong Pilipino) and Filscap (Filipino Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) selected this year's nominees from commercially released recordings between January and December 2001.

Instead of requesting record companies to submit their nominations, Katha members painstakingly listened to every record made during in 2001.

"We have adopted this tedious process to make sure that the nominates are recognized because they are good, not because they sell more records than other artists," Belamide said.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7	
Ali 1	KAILANGAN KITA
Ali 2	HIBLA
Ali 3	MASTER OF DISGUISE
Ali 4	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 5	HARRY POTTER 2
Ali 6	BRAZEN WOMEN
Ali 7	CLOCK STOPPERS
FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS	
Farmers 1	BIYAHERA
Farmers 2	GISING NA SI ADAN
ARANETA COLISEUM	
NOV. 18,20,22	BAKBAKAN NAT'L 7 STAG DERBY
NOV.23	JOHNSONS CHEERING COMPETITION
NOV 24	PBA GAMES
ELEPHANT WORLD	
NOV 18	10:00 AM / 3:00 PM
NOV. 20	1:00 PM / 3:00 PM
NOV 21	10:00AM / 3:00 PM

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BIGLANG LIKO / '0'
ODEON	HARRY POTTER
ODEON-2	SEX & ZEN / SUGAT
ROBEN	HIBLA
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	WINDTALKERS / HIGH EXPLOSIVES
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	MASARAP NA PUGAD
REMAR	HIBLA
REMAR-2	HARRY POTTER
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	HIBLA
B	SEX FILE
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	THE TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-2	HARRY POTTER 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SEX FILES
CINEMA-2	TWO TIMER
CINEMA-3	KAILANGAN KITA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TRANSPORTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	CHANGING LANES
CINEMA-6	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-7	MASARAP NA PUGAD
CINEMA-8	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-12	HIBLA
CINEMA-14	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-15	KAILANGAN KITA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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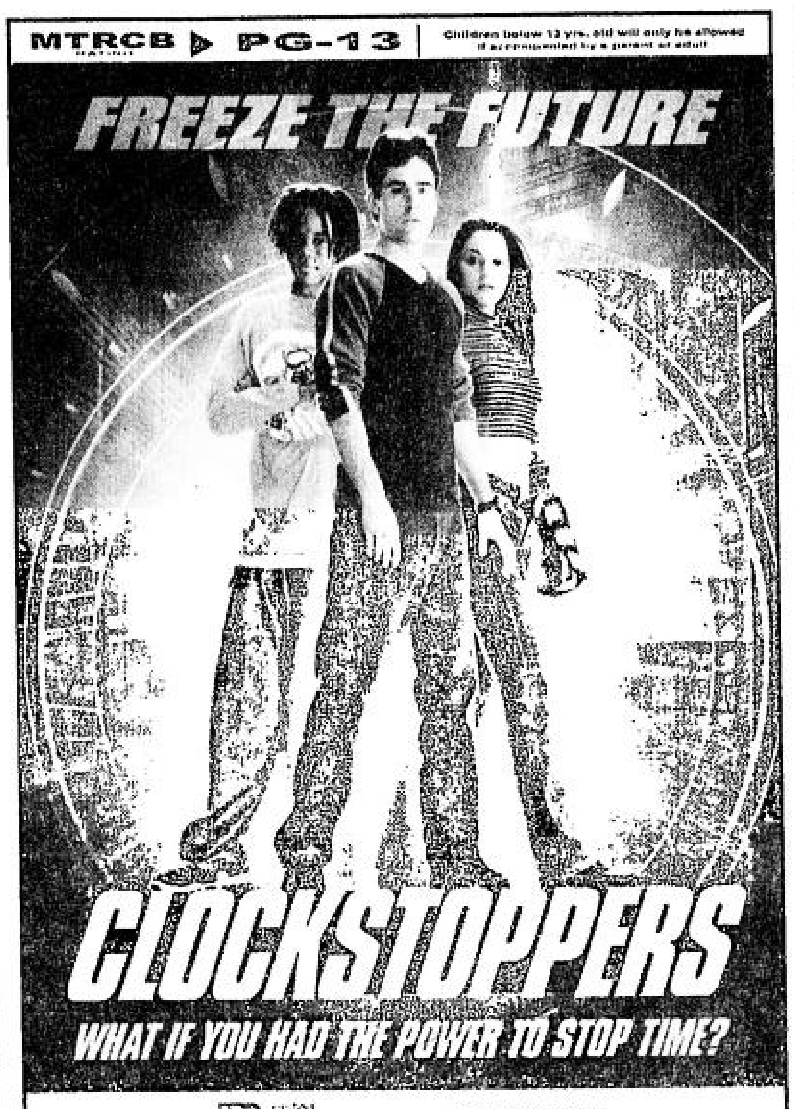

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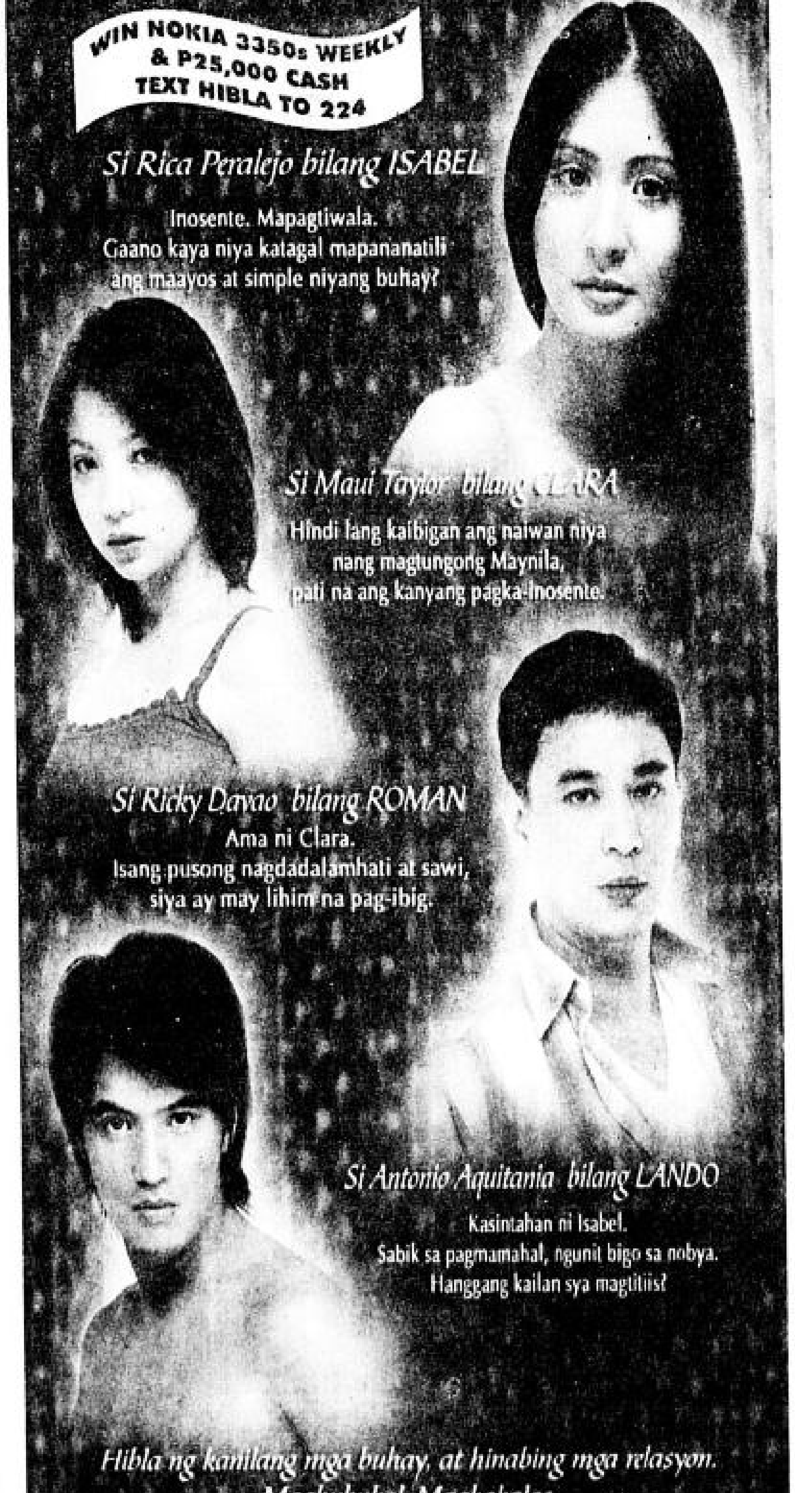
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Si Rica Peralejo bilang ISABEL
Inosente. Mapagtiwala.
Gaano kaya niya katagal mapananatili
ang maayos at simple niyang buhay?

Si Maui Taylor bilang CLARA
Hindi lang kaibigan ang naiwan niya
nang magtungong Maynila,
pati na ang kanyang pagka-inosente.

Si Ricky Davao bilang ROMAN
Ama ni Clara.
Isang pusong nagdadalamhati at sawi,
siya ay may lihim na pag-ibig.

Si Antonio Aquitania bilang LANDO
Kasintahan ni Isabel.
Sabik sa pagmamahal, ngunit bigo sa nobya.
Hanggang kailan sya magtitiis?

Hibla ng kanilang mga buhay, at hinabing mga relasyon.
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project greenlight's
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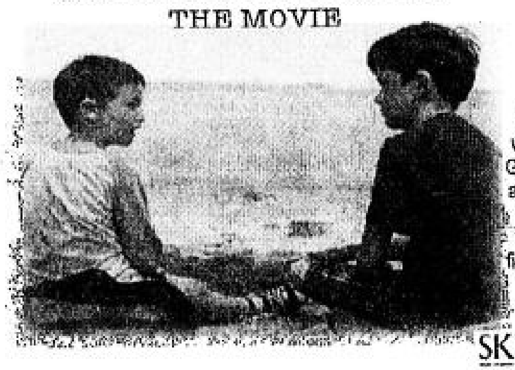
THE MOVIE


ArtFilm presents THE COFFEE CLUB

OPENS NOV. 20
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Stolen Summer by writer/director Pete Jones is the winner of the amateur filmmaking competition Project Greenlight. Kevin Pollak, Aidan Quinn, Brian Dennehy, and child actor Max Weinberg stars in the story about a Catholic boy and a Jewish boy. When the Jewish boy finds out he's dying, he works with his friend to figure out how he can make sure he gets into heaven.

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

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— Ebert & Rouper

"COLIN FIRTH IS A DELIGHT & REESE WITHERSPOON ADDS SPARKLE!"
— Rollingstone

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

RUPERT EVERETT COLIN FIRTH FRANCIS O'CONNOR REESE WITHERSPOON JUDI DENCH

Directed by Oliver Parker

Based on a play by Oscar Wilde

OPENS NOV. 20
ONLY AT
GLORIETTA 4
CINEMAS

Two young gentlemen (Rupert Everett & Colin Firth) living in 1890s England use the same pseudonym ("Earnest") on the sly, which is fine until they both fall in love with women using that name, which leads to a comedy of mistaken identities...

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

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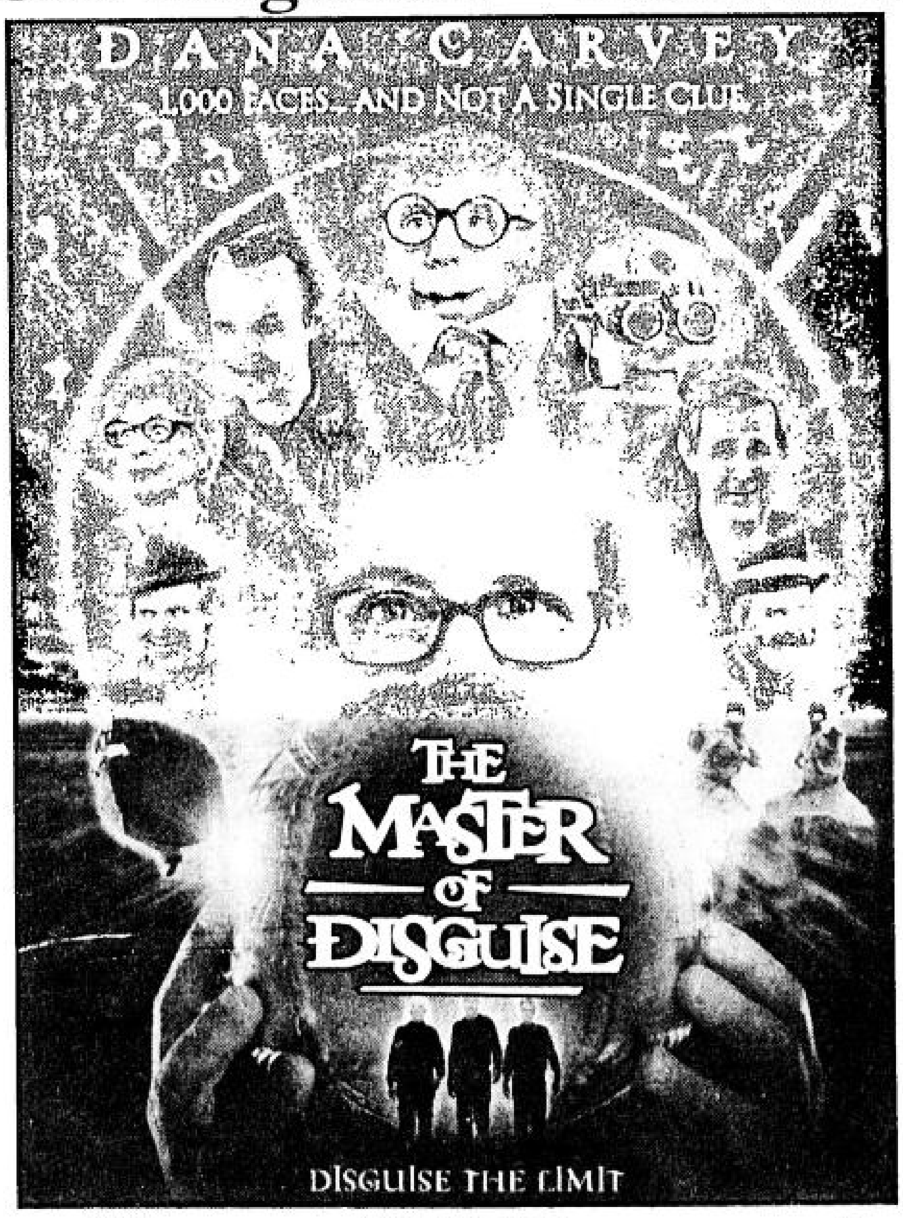

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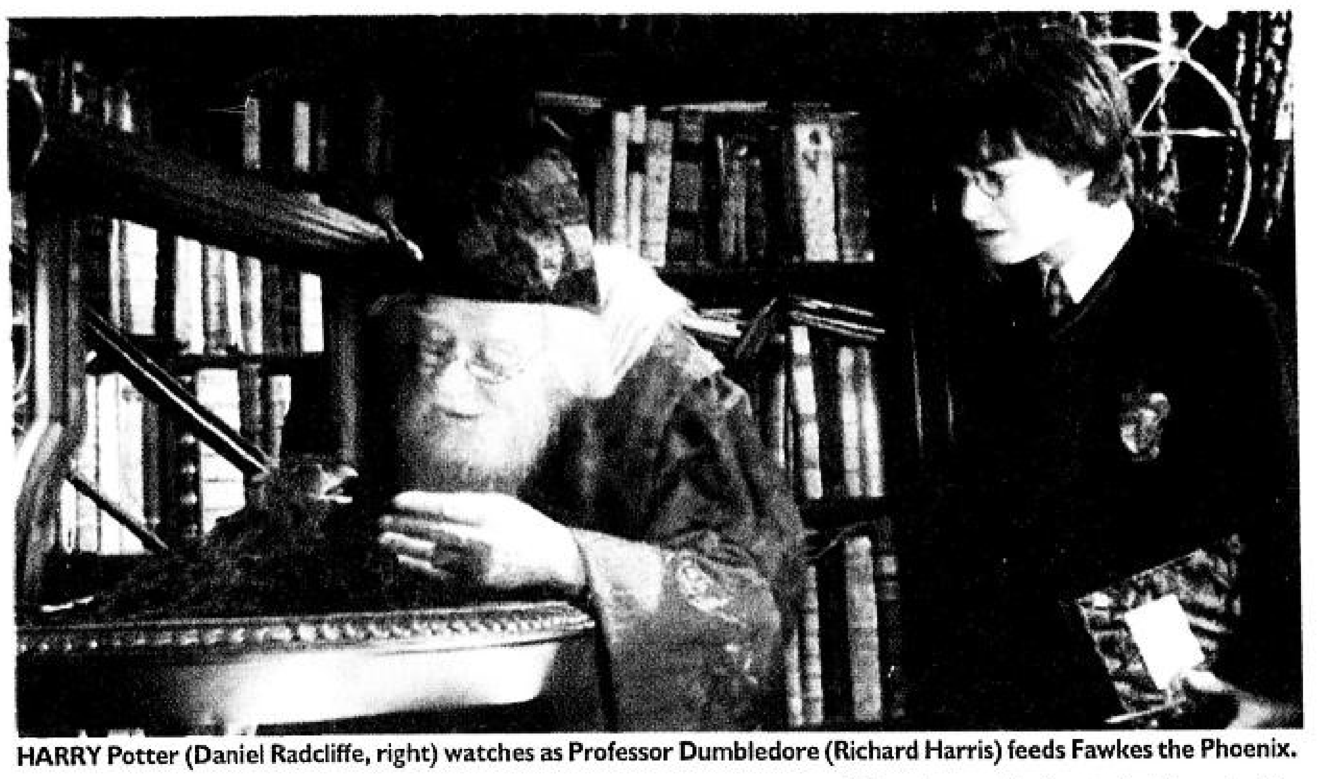
ENTERTAINMENT
Editor Louie C. Camino

'HARRY POTTER AND THE CHAMBER OF SECRETS'

Good-hearted fun and adventure on screen

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW



HARRY Potter (Daniel Radcliffe, right) watches as Professor Dumbledore (Richard Harris) feeds Fawkes the Phoenix.

THE HALLOWEEN Committee of UP Village actually had quite a discussion this year when it came time to choose what theme to adopt for "trick or treat."

There were just two choices actually, J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" or J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings." But as the competition between these flourishing franchises extends way beyond books, movies and merchandising and into their respective fan bases, the decision wasn't easy.

The Potterheads eventually won out, so our son Jacob got to wear a Hogwarts wizard's outfit instead of appearing as Legolas.

With the verdict out on "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and with "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers" coming soon this December, I'm sure a lot of the fans of each book series won't be able to resist pitting the two movies against each other.

Though I'm a Potterhead myself, I don't buy this rivalry at all. I hang out in a Malate bar called "The Hobbit House" and I readily admit that the film adaptation of "Fellowship of the Ring" captivated me more than that of "The Philosopher's Stone" last year.

The books of Rowling and Tolkien and the films they have inspired tell different fairy tales. They have their own unique mythologies and their own worlds of beliefs and credos. Naturally, they also have their own fans, but as with all children, having a favorite fairy tale doesn't mean you can't like more than one.

My daughter Gabby illustrates the point perfectly, defying the Harry Potter theme of UP Village altogether by going as Tinkerbell from Peter Pan.

Being "Potterheads" and "Ringers" gives us a chance to reclaim the innocence of our childhood. We get the same sense of wonder, the same feeling and the same magic that we got in reading classic fairy tales as children. We get to flex our imaginations again, which have atrophied from all that perusing with bills, paperwork and all the other drudgeries of adult living.

Every now and then we all need to fall through the cracks of reality and go somewhere different, somewhere better. This is why going to see "Chamber" means something more than just another day at the movies for me. It's a pilgrimage to a magnificent fairy tale, one that has a lot more in it than what the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen could ever imagine.

Special effects

And it's not just because of the special effects, funded yet again by the umpteen-million-dollar budget. The largest budgets and the most meticulous special effects are dead weight without a strong story and characters we really care about. These are the elements that breathe life into a fairy tale, or in the case of "Chamber," breathe magic, plenty of magic.

For the uninitiated, "Chamber" tells the story of Harry's second year at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Rescued by the Weasley brothers from a horrible summer at the Dursley home, where he was virtually imprisoned by his magic-hating aunt and uncle, Harry arrives at the school and soon starts hearing a mysterious and creepy voice that is urging him to kill.

Back at the Dursley's, Harry was warned by a house elf named Dobby from going back to Hogwarts, and now, an evil presence is petrifying (quite literally) everything from the school's pupils, to Mrs. Norris (the cat of Argus Filch, caretaker of Hogwarts) to Sir Nicholas, the resident ghost of Griffyndor house.

Someone, it seems, has opened Hogwarts' legendary chamber of secrets and unleashed the monster inside it. That someone could only be the descendant of Salazar Slytherin, one of the four founders of Hogwarts who left the school after his move to accept only pure-blooded wizards and witches was thwarted. Of course, it's up to Harry and his friends Ron and Hermione to find out who the culprit is, especially since Hogwarts students are beginning to suspect it's Harry himself.

> At two hours and forty minutes, the film packs just about all the plot elements of its source

Those who liked the film version of "The Philosopher's Stone" would once again appreciate director Chris Columbus' and scriptwriter Steve Kloves' fidelity to the book in making "Chamber." At two hours and forty minutes, the film packs just about all the plot elements of its source. It is longer than the first Harry Potter film, but "Chambers" also has more in terms of sheer bravado, pace and larger than life action. In other words, I think it's a much better film.

Quidditch

The Quidditch game alone in "Chambers" would make a lot of Potterheads happy. A lot of fans were disappointed in the Quidditch portrayal in "Stone."

Even more splendidly realized this time are Hogwarts, Privet Drive and my favorite, Diagon Alley, that cobble-stoned Divisoria of secret London that I would like to live in. The film is full of new magical creatures and impossibilities that are too many to mention. They are best seen and not described.

The classic characters are back, played by the eclectic, entirely credible cast of actors, including Maggie Smith as Professor McGonagall, Alan Rickman as Professor Snape (the potions master), Robbie Coltrane as Hagrid, Hogwarts' half-giant gamekeeper, and of course, the late Richard Harris as Albus Dumbledore (he will be missed).

The film gets a lot out of series newcomers like Jason Isaac's Lucious Malfoy (father of Harry's archrival Draco), Christian Coulson as the enigmatic Tom Riddle, Miriam Margoyles as the eccentric Professor Sprout, and scene-stealer Kenneth Branagh as Gilderoy Lockhart, the egotistical but ham-fisted Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher.

Welcome changes

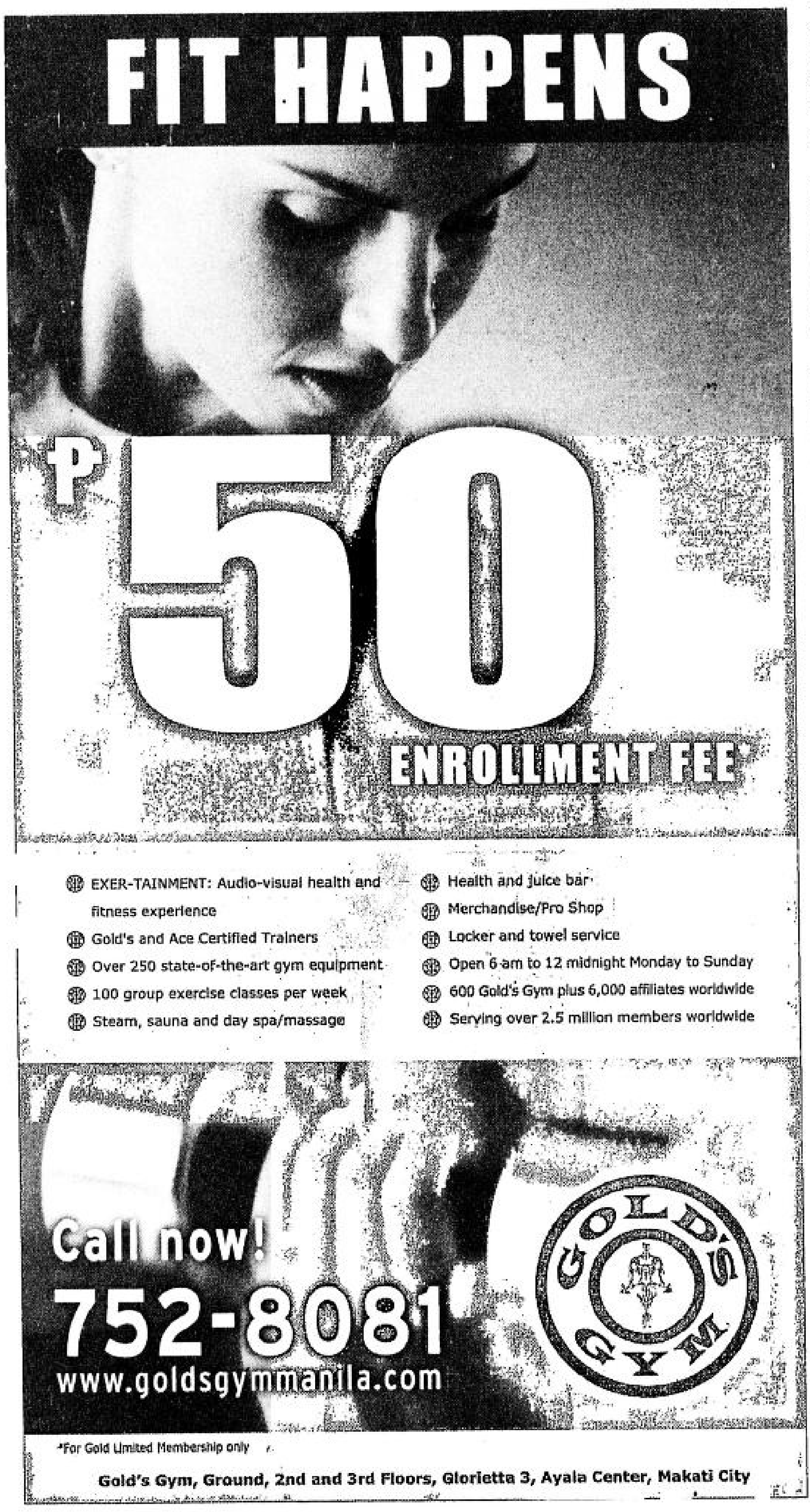
Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, playing the three young friends from the House of Gryffindor hold their own among England's finest actors. They are noticeably older and less self-conscious and the film benefits from such welcome changes.

"Chambers" somehow manages to exist on two levels, at once: While it can delight audiences in general with good-hearted fun and adventure on the screen, the more mature children among the viewers can appreciate the darker resonance of the film.

Racism, for instance, is treated through the Malfoy family's hatred of Muggles (non-magical human beings) and XMudbloods, wizards and witches who have Muggle parents or ancestry.

Usually film adaptations are recipes for disaster. Putting words and pages/and the imaginations and emotions they/evoke on film is never easy. But Warner Brothers has done it twice with Harry Potter.

"Chamber" casts an even bigger spell on me. I step out of the theater really believing I could live happily ever after.



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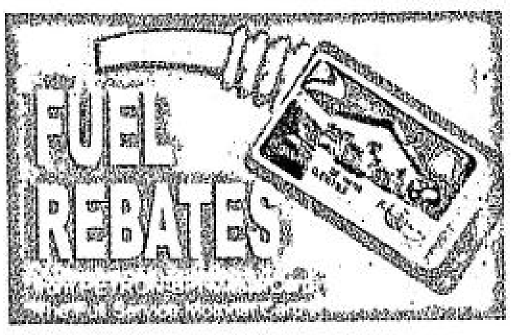


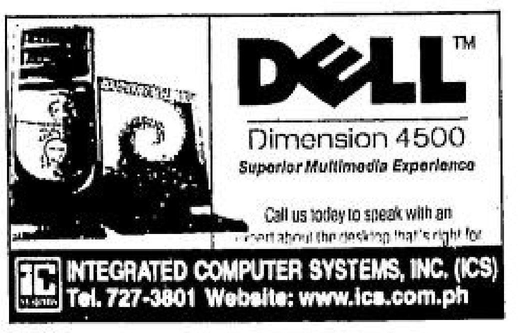
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 19, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma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Ayala group, MPC to sign $90-M Boni deal this week

By Doris C. Dumlao

PROPERTY developer Metro Pacific Corp. is set to sign within the next few days a $90-million deal to sell its 50.4-percent stake in Bonifacio Land Co. to a joint venture to be equally owned by the Ayala and Campos groups.

INQUIRER sources privy to the deal said the memorandum of understanding on the divestment was being finalized for formal signing which could happen as early as this week. The definitive agreement, on the other hand, is targeted for closing by January.

One of the sources said the deal, a brainchild of First Pacific Co. Ltd. executive chair Manuel V. Pangilinan (who is also the chief executive of MPC and affiliate Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.), aimed "to secure a better future" for Fort Bonifacio Development Corp., developer of the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"It's in the bag for Ayala-Campos. Only a few items are being ironed out but the basic terms have been agreed upon," a source said.

Another source said: "It is safe to say that the MOU can be signed before the month ends."

MPC owns 72.9 percent of BLC which, in turn, controls 55 percent of FBDC (the joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority).

Under the deal, MPC will retain residual interest in excess of the 50.4-percent block to be acquired by the joint venture between Ayala Land Inc. and the Campos' United Laboratories Inc. MPC will lose all board representation in FBDC but retain a 20-hectare property for future development in the Fort Bonifacio Global City and likewise keep a minority stake at the BLC level, the sources explained.

The Ayala and Campos groups, on the other hand, will take over at least a 50.4-percent stake in BLC through a 50-50 joint venture.

The deal will address the principal loan to MPC's Hong Kong-based parent firm First Pacific, which sources said had already given its blessing to the package despite the rift triggered by the aborted deal with the Gokongweis.

In addition to the takeout of the $90-million loan (principal amount extended through Larouge Ltd.) that was secured by the 50.4-percent BLC stake, the Ayala-Campos joint venture will also address a small portion of MPC's remaining unresolved liabilities.

The $90 million will be paid through upfront cash upon the closing of the deal, while the ALI-Unilab venture has also committed to bring in additional capital to continue the development work of FBDC, the sources explained. ALI, for its part, will also include part of its 18.6-percent stake in Metro Railway Transit Corp. as additional contribution to the joint venture.

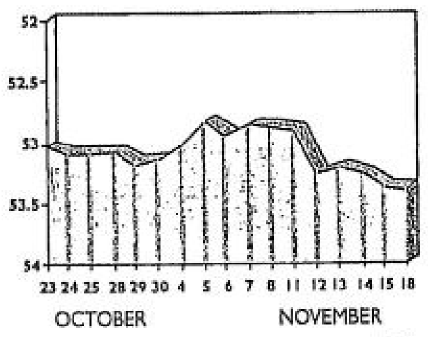
Excluding the Larouge loan, only P2.8 billion of the P11.9 billion debts at the parent level remain unresolved to date while about P9 billion had been either restructured or repaid.

The BLC deal is being packaged by MPC's financial adviser, CLSA Exchange Capital, a joint venture between French banking giant Credit Lyonnais and the group of

AYALA/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 53.39= $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 18, 2002

¥ 121.19= $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 18, 2002

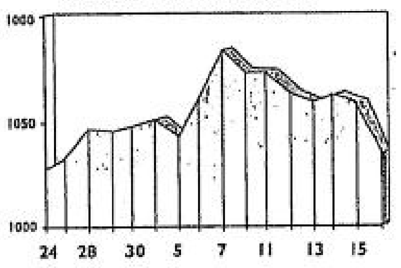
GOLD: $320.20-320.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 18, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks hit 4-month low

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCKS fell to their lowest close in nearly four weeks yesterday, dragged down by a 40-percent plunge in Meralco after the Supreme Court ordered it to give customers huge refunds.

The key index dropped 24.23 points or 2.29 percent to 1,034.48, its lowest finish since Oct. 25.

Volume climbed to P323.81 million from Friday's P187.73 million. Losers clobbered gainers 40 to 11 and there were 23 stocks unchanged.

"We expect follow-through selling in the next session but the losses will not be as big. The market's initial reaction was felt today," Vistan said.

Reuters

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

PFFFT goes this cute administration's work on the $500 million worth of IOUs it is issuing abroad.

To think, only a few days ago, the Department of Finance proudly announced it could easily get a good price for the bonds, just like that, no questions asked.

Now, according to DOF insiders—which, in newsroom speak, means those who are not outsiders, but more particularly, just about anybody—the IOU deal is still hanging.

This new twist in the bond flotation can make the business sector quite uneasy.

That the IOU deal goes pffft, at least in business, is the equivalent of Tita Cory's discharging a loud one, ripping it throughout the congregation, while Cardinal Sin is leading a silent prayer for economic recovery. That kind of uneasy!

* * *

TELEPHONE lines burned over the weekend. The Bangko Sentral got dozens of calls from around the world. But what was the big deal again?

Even the money men of this cute administration, led by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, made conference calls with other money men abroad late in the night.

It now seems that reports reached the foreign buyers of the IOUs, thanks to Bloomberg and Dow Jones, Camacho just resigned from the Cabinet.

It turned out that Camacho, more popularly known in my family as the Whiz, only submitted to Gloriaetta something that is neither beast nor human crawling under the earth.

Sometimes, it is also known as "courtesy resignation."

* * *

ACTUALLY, the Whiz was only trying to keep his dignity, and perhaps sanity, amid all the brouhaha about an impending Cabinet revamp.

On his own, without being asked, the Whiz wrote one of those whatchamacalit. He submitted it to the Palace even rather discreetly.

The issue on the Cabinet revamp was becoming a hot one. Politicians already rode on it. Apparently, the Whiz feared a public impression that he is holding like a lizard (*kapit tuko*).

* * *

AS his brilliant solution, for example, Senate President Franklin "the Shoe" Drilon suggested that Cabinet members should give in their courtesy resignation.

Thus, according to the wisdom from the Shoes, Gloriaetta would have a "free hand" in picking a new team. Hmm.

That Gloriaetta, who has command of thousands of heavily armed personnel called the Armed Forces, can fire out her Cabinet members as she pleases, without asking any question, masked or otherwise, much less being armed with their "courtesy resignation," is apparently beyond a politician's mind's grasp.

* * *

THAT'S why, unfortunately, foreigners cannot understand what "courtesy resignation" is all about. They should only react to the Bloomberg and Dow Jones reports on the Whiz.

They don't know that "courtesy resignation" is in the same league as *lambanog*. It is as unique to us as the famous "Filipino time." It is, in short, a Pinoy thing.

But it is a relatively new invention. Makoy never used it. He had no use for it. At that time, if you displeased the man, you would be, er, resigned from the human race.

* * *

ITS roots actually date back only to the time of Tita Cory in the 1980s. At that time, somebody in her Cabinet was making a lot of trouble. Oh no, it's Johnny!

But Tita Cory did not seem to have the wherewithal to kick him out of the Cabinet. To get rid of him, the entire Cabinet members must resign.

That was the birth of "courtesy resignation." Only, what's so courteous about it all, I am still trying to figure out up to now.

* * *

TODAY that 1980s invention can be costly. The $500-million IOU deal, as I said, is going pffft.

Between us girls, upon hearing the news on the Whiz, some financial institutions abroad quickly withdrew their order for the RP bonds.

To think, the money would serve as advance funding for 2003. It could have been a good flotation.

As a policy of the Whiz, the DOF only entertained offers which were, er, interesting. Translation—low rates. The rates have changed. Latest estimate is, we may have to pay $50 million to $60 million more. *Aray!*

* * *

EVEN local contacts of Japanese finance ministry officials got a lot of the telephone calls last week. They wanted to know about the impending Cabinet revamp.

The supposed date of the revamp, or at least its announcement, would be this Nov. 30.

Now two days later, on Dec. 2, during the state visit of Gloriaetta to Japan, this cute administration is supposed to close several financial deals with the Japanese government.

Of course the Japanese officials worry if the same guys would sign for this cute administration. What if the signatories would turn out to be well groomed cashew nuts?

* * *

ACTUALLY, some movements in this cute administration were in the works. The reports said that Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza would move to the Department of Interior Designers, *este*, Interior and Local Government. From what I gathered, however, it was not Mendoza who was moving. It was one of his undersecretaries. Word reached Gloriaetta that the usec received a little pocket money of close to $125,000 or about P6.5 million, in connection with a train project.

* * *

AND so the bright guy was supposed to leave DOTC, and he would instead go to GSIS to become chair.

Luckily, the present GSIS chair, former Supreme Court Justice Hermogenes Concepcion, has a fixed term. In short, no dice.

And what kind of a punishment is that, anyway? And do you not pity the GSIS, boss, assigning a man like that as its chair?

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, November 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	17.75	67,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41	41	41	91,900
China Banking Corp.	610	625	610	625	430
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26	26	91,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31	30	30.5	94,700
Philippine National Bank	29	29	29	29	3,900
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	2,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	17.75	17.75	19,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1190	1210	1190	1210	5,250
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	4,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.39	0.39	650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	420	420	415	415	77,120
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	20,000
Piltel	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.21	1,980,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	252.5	252.5	243	245	299,930
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	7,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	11	11	8.2	8.3	200,900
Manila Electric Co. B	12	12	9.9	9.9	10,461,300
Petron Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	683,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	370,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	13,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.24	2.24	2.22	2.24	523,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.45	106,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	55,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	14	14.5	14	14.25	376,300
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	10,000
RFM Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	160,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	204,300
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	64	63.5	64	151,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.45	4.45	1,546,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	601,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	10,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.1	35,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.18	0.15	0.16	2,360,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	11.75	11.75	10.25	10.25	794,700
Ionics Inc.	1.54	1.54	1.4	1.4	290,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	67,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	370,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.205	0.205	660,000
Music Corp.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	1,600,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	900,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.88	1.9	1.88	1.9	550,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	250,000
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	3	3	2.2	2.2	25,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	16.75	17	1,196,600
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	5	4.95	4.95	1,198,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.165	0.165	120,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	390,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1,980,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.84	0.84	10,060,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	408,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.3	157,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	60,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.3	21,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.17	120,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	350,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0026	0.0024	0.0026	22,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	580,000

Equitable PCI Bank plans to raise ₱6B in tier-2 capital next year

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank is set to float some P6 billion worth of five-year, tier-two notes in the local market in the first quarter of 2003 even if it successfully sells $200 million worth of 10-year tier-2 bonds in the remaining months of the year.

Tier-2 notes are long-term borrowings that investors can convert into equity upon maturity.

In the absence of fresh capital infusion from existing shareholders, banks have been resorting to tier-2 issuances to shore up their declining capital in the face of increasing risks.

Equitable PCI has tapped Deutsche Bank and UBS Warburg to underwrite the sale of the foreign bonds and the Manila unit of Deutsche Bank to handle the sale of the peso bonds next year.

The dollar bonds to mature in 2012 would be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange and would be equivalent to almost half of the equity of Equitable PCI shareholders.

Bangko Sentral Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the policy-making Monetary Board had approved the planned dollar and peso tier-2 issuances of Equitable PCI.

"There are two separate and distinct offerings. With the proceeds of the sale, Equitable PCI will be able to comply with the requirements of the BSP," Reyes said.

Equitable PCI's capital adequacy ratio had dropped to 9.7 percent or below the 10-percent limit required by the central bank. The bond issues, said Reyes, would bring the capital ratio to 11 percent or even more.

Commercial banks currently have an average capital adequacy ratio of 13 percent. The BSP encourages lenders to maintain a higher capital-against-asset ratio as a form of buffer against potential risks.

Equitable PCI's capital adequacy ratio fell after it suffered from a credibility crisis during the height of the "Juetengate" scandal due to the association of some of its stakeholders with ousted President Estrada.

As a result, the bank's deposits dropped substantially.

"They need the tier-2 boost so they can go full blast with their recovery," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Equitable PCI had regained its ranking as the third largest in terms of assets as of the third quarter after dropping to fourth place a year ago.

The bank will be the second lender to issue tier-2 notes more than a year after the central bank first set the guidelines for lenders to boost their capital using long-term borrowings.

The first was Metrobank, which sold $100 million worth of tier-2 bonds last December to Dunmore Asset Ltd., a Singapore-based venture capital, and another $125-million in 10-year bonds last week.

The BSP had relaxed its policy on tier-2 and would now allow banks to raise half of their capital through the issuance of the long-term convertible bonds from a previous regulation limiting tier-2 financing to 25 percent.

DISCLOSURES

CITYSTATE Savings Bank Inc. has confirmed it dropped plans to revive Unitrust Development Bank after the deadline set by the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. elapsed while it was still negotiating for the consent of local investors of the shuttered bank.

* * *

DFNN denied having any information that could explain the unusual price movement of its shares.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. raised $125 million with a 10-year lower tier-2 bond issue that was more than 1.5 times subscribed. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Nov. 18, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.990295	1.000000	53.389000
Japan	Yen	0.008221	0.008302	0.443200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.565161	1.580500	84.381300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.126973	0.128217	6.845400
Switzerland	Franc	0.682256	0.688942	36.781900
Canada	Dollar	0.625265	0.631393	33.709400
Singapore	Dollar	0.562029	0.567537	30.300200
Australia	Dollar	0.556940	0.562398	30.025900
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.627475	2.653224	141.653000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.264079	0.266667	14.237100
Brunei	Dollar	0.560915	0.566412	30.240200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000111	0.005900
Thailand	Baht	0.022771	0.022994	1.227600
UAE	Dirham	0.269651	0.272294	14.537500
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.009800	53.912200
Argentina	Peso	0.281334	0.284091	15.167300
Brazil	REAL	0.268736	0.271370	14.488200
Denmark	Kroner	0.134632	0.135951	7.258300
India	Rupee	0.020575	0.020777	1.109300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.260639	0.263193	14.051600
Mexico	New Peso	0.096803	0.097752	5.218900
New Zealand	Dollar	0.494652	0.499500	26.667800
Norway	Kroner	0.136738	0.138078	7.371800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017015	0.017182	0.917300
South Africa	Rand	0.103210	0.104221	5.564300
Korea	Won	0.000827	0.000835	0.044600
Sweden	Kroner	0.110414	0.111496	5.952700
Syria	Pound	0.019229	0.019417	1.036700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.028654	0.028935	1.544800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000736	0.000743	0.039700

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2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,500,000	
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	650,000
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5.	CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	240,000
6.	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	100,000	90,000
8.	CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10.	CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	140,000
11.	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
12.	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13.	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	160,000	
14.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
15.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	290,000	
16.	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17.	LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350,000	300,000
18.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,000,000
21.	MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22.	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,400,000
23.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	550,000
24.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	100,000	
26.	METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27.	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)		350,000
28.	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A" "B" "C"	Pls. call	Pls. call
29.	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32.	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	300,000
33.	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34.	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	250,000	
35.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	775,000
36.	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	
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PAL warns tax move on jet fuel may raise fares

By Abigail L. Ho

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. said the Department of Finance's proposal to remove tax exemptions on the fuel imports of airlines fuel would have a "depressive effect" on the aviation industry and result in higher plane fares.

"I don't know if they're (DOF) prepared to bear the effect of that move. It will affect passenger and cargo (traffic) and the economy as a whole," PAL president and chief operating officer Avelino Zapanta said in an interview.

In early September, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho pointed out that the government lost "hundreds of millions of pesos" in taxes because of the local airlines' duty-free importation of jet fuel.

Aside from the forgone tax revenues, he said a petition from local oil companies saying that the current policy on jet fuel was disadvantageous to them also compelled the DOF to conduct a review of the policy.

Also, shipping lines have been clamoring for a level playing field—either their fuel importation be made tax-free or their counterparts in the aviation sector be made to pay taxes.

Local shipping organization Philippine Inter-Island Shipping Association (Pisa) earlier argued that local shipping lines were being discriminated against as compared with local airlines.

While airlines had duty-free importation of fuel and spare parts, Pisa said shipping lines had to bear the costs of taxes on top of all the problems they were facing today.

But Zapanta said the removal of the fuel tax exemption that airlines were currently enjoying could not be done just like that.

"They'll have to legislate because that's part of our franchise," he said.

He reiterated that should these exemptions be removed, airfares could possibly shoot up.

The DOF should also consider that airlines were already burdened enough with the sharp increase in war risk insurance premiums following the Sept. 11 terror attack on the United States last year, he added.

Ayala group . . .

From page B1

local investment banker Luis Virata. This equity transaction is also tied to the P800-million loan to the Bonifacio Ridge condominium project signed by the same ALI-Unilab group last week.

With the resolution of the Larouge debt and the drastic reduction in liabilities, MPC's target is to revert to profitability by the second quarter of 2003. After booking about P20 billion in loss provisions for the Fort Bonifacio project, MPC's divestment of a controlling stake in BLC will leave the following assets in its portfolio: shipping firm Negros Navigation Co., leisure estate developer Landco Pacific Corp., and upscale condominium developer Pacific Plaza Towers. After selling the banking assets of First e-Bank, MPC will also retain the shell company and announce a new business model on Dec. 6.

The forthcoming signing of the BLC deal gives the Ayala group a second crack at the Fort Bonifacio development, being MPC's stiffest rival when development rights to the former military camp was privatized by the government in 1995.

ALI, whose previous talks with MPC on a buyout deal in BLC collapsed last year, managed to re-enter the picture after being invited by the Campos group, the sources said.

Motorsports Festival hits the road anew

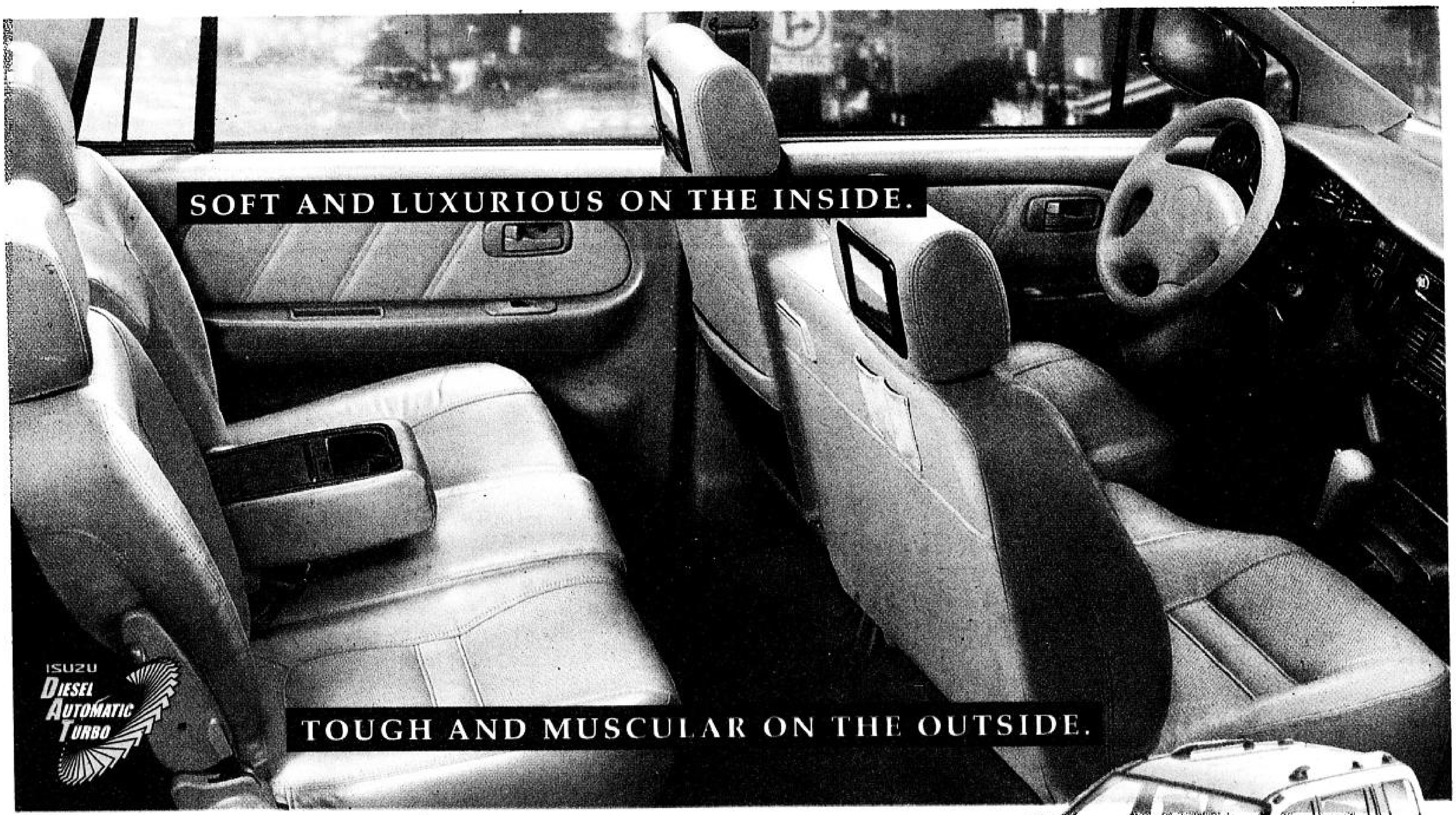
Philippine MOTORSPORTS Festival
2002
PETRON
35
1

FROM SUN up, to sun up again, everything is going to be about racing, cars, bikes, jet ski and every motorsport you can imagine. Gear up for the return of the much-awaited Philippine Motorsports Festival at Subic International Raceway on Nov. 23 and 24.

Now on its third staging, PMF will again converge the top race drivers in the country—from land to sea—in what is dubbed as the biggest motorsport festival in Asia. This will be as exciting as the previous ones, what with the inclusion of the scooter race with an expected 800 participants. And that is aside from the other 12 racing events lined up, the crowd-drawer bikini contest, and a big concert to further increase the adrenalin. "It's the 48-hour Mardi Gras of motorsports enthusiasts," says organizer Georges Ramirez, a top racecar driver himself.

Various events such as rally cross, circuit racing, classic cars exhibit, hill climbs, drag racing, slalom, go karting, Ferrari, BMW, and big bikes exhibits, off roading, kayaking, and jet skiing will be featured concurrently dur-

MOTOR/B4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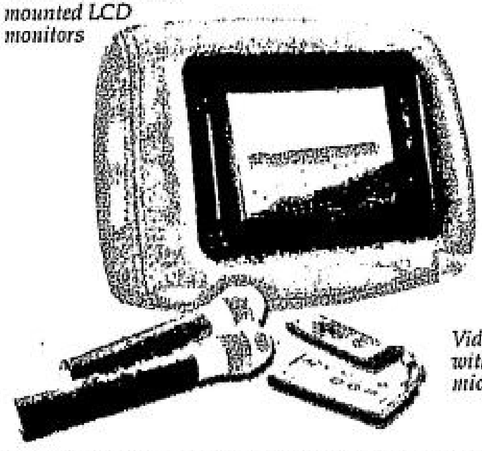

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Motorsports Festival hits the road anew

From page B3

ing the festival, which is a fitting yearender for all the racing tournaments in the country. Numerous motorsports clubs are also expected to participate.

Since 1999, this is the third time PMF hits the sophisticated racetrack of Subic. Last year, racing aficionados missed the event since, as Ramirez says, "We had to reconfigure the racetrack." Ramirez is helped by Martin Cruz in organizing the event.

Where else can you find the superstars of the racing world in different disciplines unite in one big event? "I like to unite people," says Ramirez, "together we're a big force."

"At least one day or two days a year, there's harmony for a while," he says, referring to the stiff competition among drivers themselves.

Other featured attractions are the "Run What You Brung," and the most anticipated Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series. The Jet Ski run will do something different this year. Instead of just a normal race, the drivers will go around the bay making the run even more exciting.

Not to be overlooked is the racetrack itself. "The racetrack is kind of sanitized because we host the national races. So we have to meet the standards set by the FIA," Ramirez says. "It is actually much higher in any of the national standards."

With the humongous size of the racetrack one can almost watch one event after the other. But Grudge Match Drag Race is the most watched as it is held during the night when the crowd is gigantic.

The security of the participants and their families are ensured with the assistance of the people from the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

So mark your calendars red, as this weekend will see the top and the brightest in the Philippine Motorsports Festival show what they've got.

Philippine
MOTORSPORTS
Festival
2002

Blaze Series concludes at PMF

THOSE on their toes trying to predict the winner of the Petron Blaze Super Saloon Series need not wait longer. The third Philippine Motorsports Festival is one suitable venue to conclude the series.

Eyeing two of the top three spots are the Petron Blaze team led by Louis Ramirez.

"This is the most exciting race in the past four years," says Ramirez, "the top eight cars during the qualifying rounds are just within one second of each other."

This year, the series featured two female drivers; one is running to capture one of the top three places.

The tournament is dominated this year by Autolast which made a huge comeback after years of absence in the racing world. "But we've been able to close the gap with Autoplus," says Ramirez.

During the festival the participants will be running three races, Philippine National Touring Car Series, Blaze Super Saloon Series, and SVI Challenge Cup.

Among the participants, the Ramirez family, hailed as the 'Von Trapp Family of Racing' (instead of hitting the notes, the Ramirezes hit the road), make up most of the Petron team. It started with racing pillar Pocholo Ramirez, and when the other boys became licensed drivers, they joined their father. The Petron team is composed of Kookie, Miguel and Louis Ramirez. The others, like Pocholo, are running the all-Miata race; Menchie, the female driver, is running the SVI Challenge Cup, while Georges runs in the Asian Festival of Speed.

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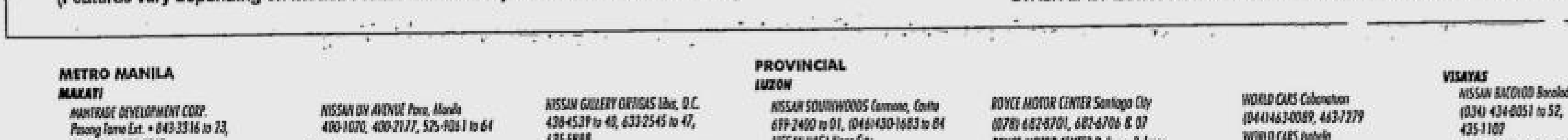
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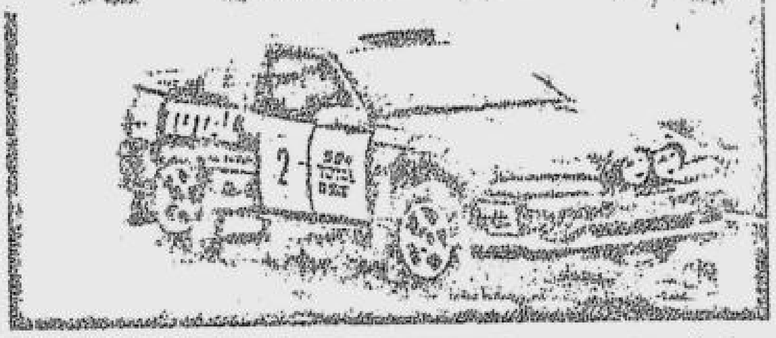
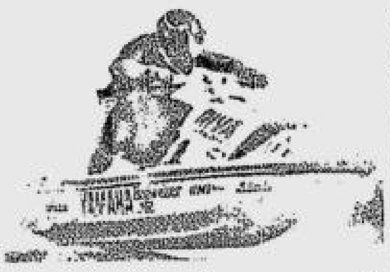
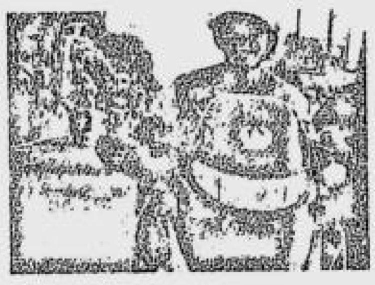
November 23 & 24, 2002
Subic International Raceway
Subic Bay Freeport Zone







November 23, Saturday

Time	
08:00 – 08:25	Orientation "Gulf Run What You Brung"
09:00 – 09:20	Classic Cars Open Practice
09:30 – 09:50	SVI Challenge Cup Open Practice
09:30 – 12:00	Jet Ski Part 1
09:30 – 05:00	Go-Kart Races
10:00 – 10:20	Miata Cup Open Practice
10:00 – 11:00	Rally Start Parc Ferme
10:30 – 10:50	PNTC Blaze Super Saloon Open Practice
11:00	Rally Flag-Off
11:00 – 12:00	Run What U Brung Orientation Run
01:10 – 01:30	SVI Challenge Cup Qualifying
01:30 – 05:30	Jet Ski Part 2, Rally Cross & Motocross Practice and Qualifying
01:45 – 02:15	Miata Cup Qualifying
02:30 – 03:00	PNTC blaze Super Saloon Qualifying
03:15 – 04:15	Run What U Brung Practice
04:25 – 05:00	Executive Driving Course School & Four-Wheeler Best in Show Contest
08:30pm – 11:00	Concert, Bikini Open, Awarding
7:00 – 4:00 am	Grudge Match Drag Racing

November 24, Sunday

Time	
08:00 – 08:45	Run What You Brung Orientation Runs
09:00 – 05:00	11th Leg Race Motorsports Club Shell Helix Slalom
09:00 – 09:15	Opening Ceremonies
09:15 – 09:45	Vintage Sprint MSCC Race 1
10:00 – 10:30	SVI Challenge Cup
10:45 – 11:15	Miata Cup Championship Race 1
11:30 – 12:00	PNTC Blaze Super Saloon Series Race 1
12:00 – 12:30	Vintage Sprint MSCC Race 2
01:00 – 01:45	Run What You Brung Race 1
02:00 – 02:30	SVI Challenge Cup Race 2 Finals
02:45 – 03:15	Miata Cup Championship Race 2 Finals
03:30 – 04:00	PNTC Blaze Super Saloon Series Race 2
04:15 – 05:00	Run What You Brung Race 2 Finals
05:00 – 05:30	Executive Driving Course School

Isuzu tops 1st DoE Fuel Economy Run

THE FIRST Department of Energy (DOE) Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) Fuel Economy Run which was conducted on Nov. 10 showed Isuzu's Hilander Crosswind XTO (2.5 liter disel engine and manual transmission) entry garnering the best fuel efficiency record of 19.198 km to a liter while their second entry—a Crosswind XT—got a 17.122 km per liter result.

Mitsubishi Adventure, 2.5 liter diesel engine and manual transmission got 17.509 km per liter.

A Honda CRV, 2.0 liter gasoline engine and manual transmission, was able to travel 13.422 km per liter while a Honda CRV, 2.0 liter gasoline engine and automatic transmission was able to cover 9.587 km per liter.

Two units of Toyota REVO, 2.4 liter diesel engine and manual transmission traveled 16.504 and 16.402 km per liter.

The objective of the program is to promote fuel economy consciousness and consumer empowerment through initial data on fuel economy ratings of AUVs employing energy efficiency measures and techniques. In addition, it puts premium on the vehicle and driver capabilities through data in a safe and normal driving condition that employs energy efficient measures and techniques taking place on national roads and expressways.

Start-point was the DoE main gate in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, and end-point was the Petron gasoline station in Calatagan, Batangas.

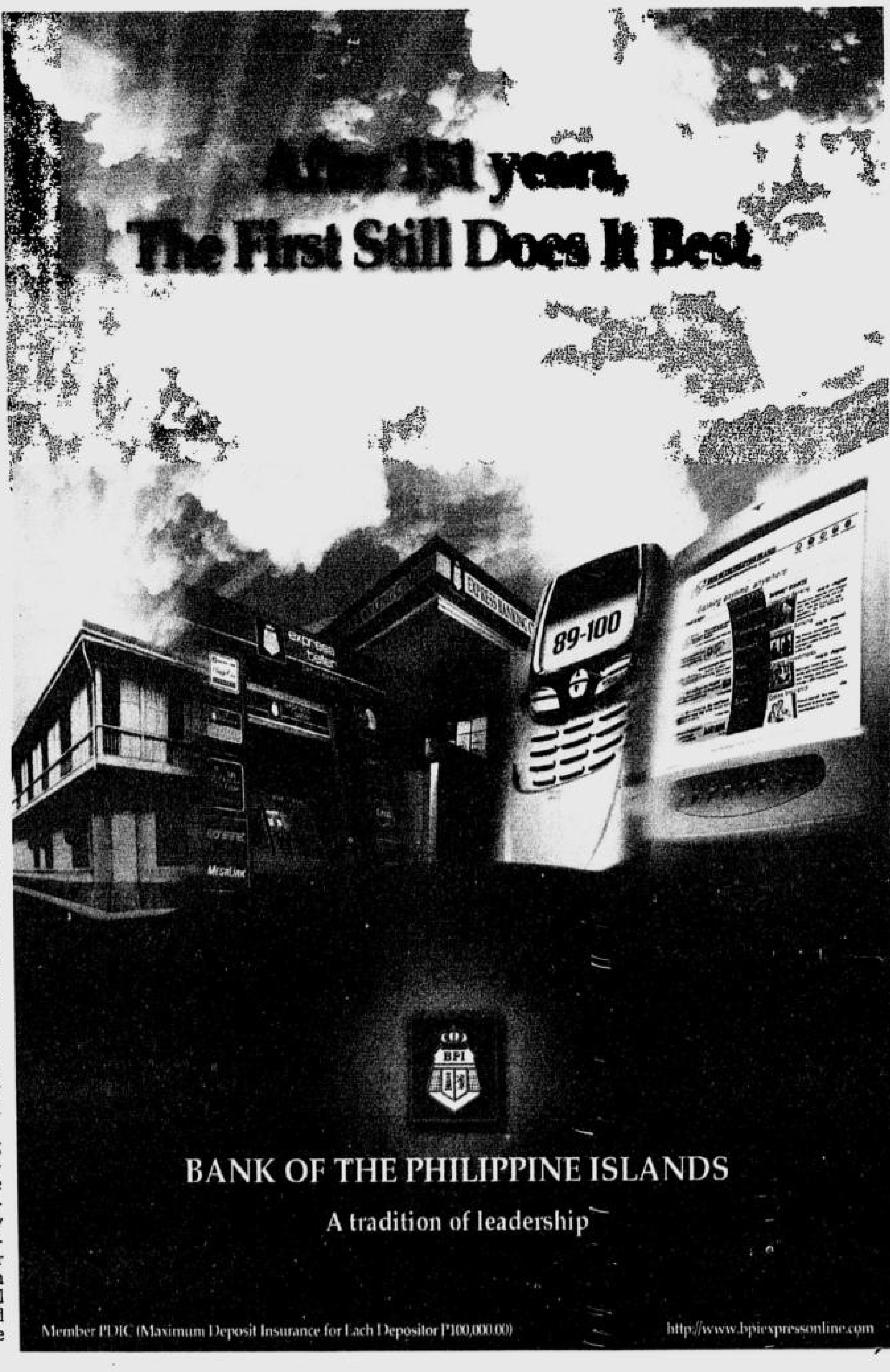
All AUVs carried one driver and one navigator and were required to carry three sandbags each weighing 55 kg.

The participating AUVs are commercial vehicles that are originally Philippine-designed or similarly designed low-cost vehicles with a higher local content than Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) and with a Gross Volume Weight (GVW) of up to 3 tons.

All drivers were members of private group Citizen Traffic Action (CTA). The results were carefully evaluated by the end of run, fuel measurement and fuel economy calculation committee.

Energy Secretary Vince S. Perez Jr. announced the results. Also present in the culminating program were Calatagan Mayor Peter Oliver M. Palacio and Batangas Vice Governor Peter Perez Laurel. President Toru Koyasu received the plaque of appreciation for Isuzu Philippines Corp.

The DOE, represented by its Energy Efficiency Division (EED) of the DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau (EUMB) is the overall program coordinator.



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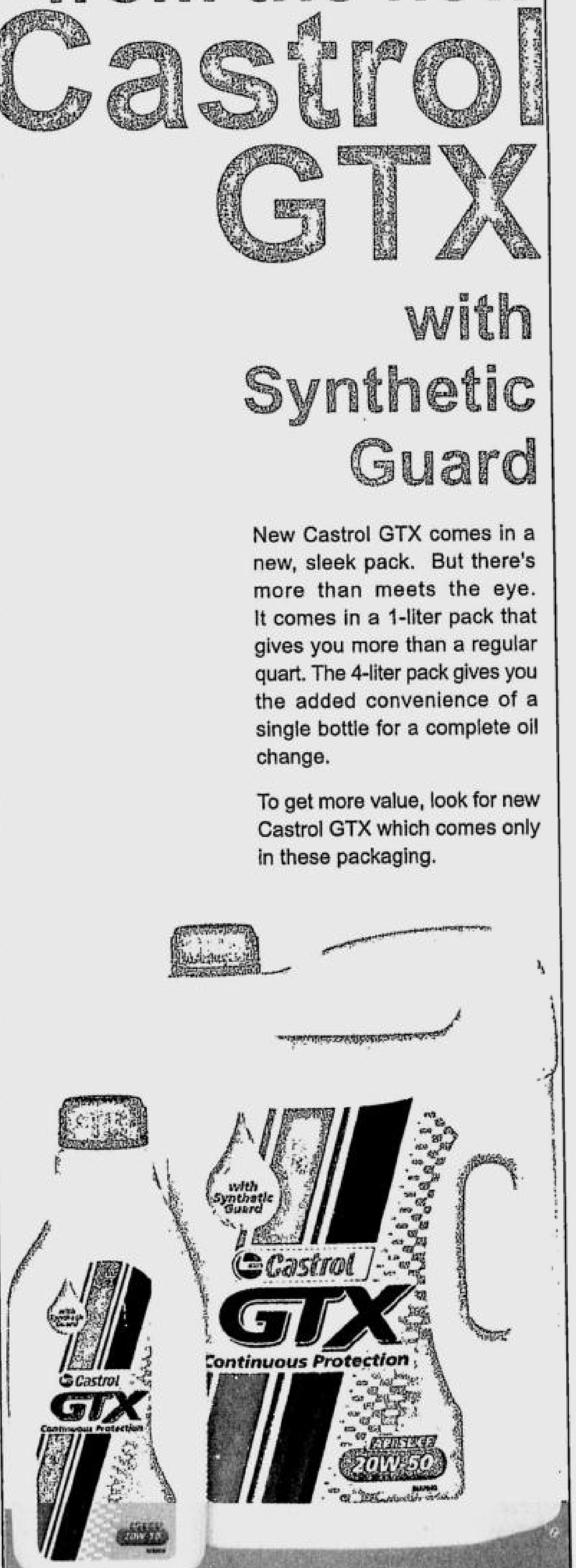

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Philippine MOTORSPORTS Festival 2002

Roar of the wild

THE SCREAMS of the crowd, the roar of the engines, the screeching bluish smoke from the tires—the call of the wild will be heard this November in Subic at the Philippine Motorsports Festival.

Coming this month is all the action, the burning rubber, the roaring engines, the gorgeous girls and the intense heat of competition. The country's top racers will be revving up at the track. Bodies will be swinging wildly, at the slalom or at the bikini open and rave party, so come prepared for 48 hours of non-stop motorsport action.

It's the end of the year and season ender for many racing disciplines. Everyone's hair is nearly down as we approach the coming holidays. What better way to start kicking back than to have a massive party. This concept was the brainchild of Georges Ramirez, notable homegrown racer and son of racing legend Pocholo Ramirez. George mounted the festival back in 1999 and followed it up successfully in 2000. Last year saw the track being re-laid out so the festival had to take a break but this year the festival is back in full force for its third showing.

The Subic International Raceway has played host to all the disciplines before, drawing massive crowds ready to have a wild time as they watched touring cars, karting, bikes, drag racing, slalom, jet skis, classic cars, rally and of course .... the bikini open.

Gerry's Grill is taking over the action in the sea this year and will be churning the waves with Gerry's Jet Ski Adventure. If you have a ski, you can join the excitement or watch the activities from right next to the race track. Either way, if it has anything to do with Gerry's grill, it will probably be worth your while to grab your shades, a towel, your Speedos, and be there.

At the Racetrack the season is coming to an end for the Phil. National Touring Car Championship and Blaze Super Saloon Championship and fans will be able to witness Jodie Coseteng, Kookie Ramirez and Jojo Silverio in their final duel for the year. Circuit fans will also see Monching Gutierrez and Tom Pastor battle it out in the final rounds of the SVI Challenge Cup 2002.

Right next to the track is where the country's top Karters will be tearing up the asphalt at the Speedfest and the youngest up and coming karters will show their stuff in the Cadet series and the country's fastest Go-Karts, the Formula 125 class on Saturday.

At the same place outside the track on Sunday, the 11th leg of the RACE Motorsports Club Shell Helix Slalom Racing Series will be held. The simultaneous excitement of the slalom vehicles swinging around the cones and the touring cars racing towards turn 1 leaves many in a quandary as to what to watch. So much is going on that the festival really has something for everyone.

Circuit is circuit, but all rally fans really have to be there for the final leg of the Philippine Rally. It's a three way competition between "Coach" Vip Isada, Leleng Marinas and Dindo de Jesus for the championship. Witness as they take off from the Subic racetrack on Saturday to the Naval Mag area. With so much at stake, the excitement will be at maximum at the six special rally stages set up for the event.

If watching is not good enough then its time for "Run What You Brung". Calling Juan Schumacher, Bong Montoya and You. If you want to really feel the adrenalin, then on the 23rd and 24th, put away that remote control, get off the couch and get your car to Subic. Be Schumacher, Montoya or Irvine. No racing license, no problem. "Run What You Brung" is a race against time that puts you and your car on the same track where formulas burn rubber. So if you want to see what its like or want to see if you really have what it takes, then it doesn't matter what car you have, come race in your bracket at the real track. Don't forget to grab your keys, get your fans with their cameras and speed safely to Subic.

If you still want some more then fret not because as night time draws closer on Saturday, the festivities don't end. If Night Drag Racing is your scene then this years festival is your dream come true. The PMF is calling all drag racers for bracket and grudge match drag racing. Bring your car, be mentally prepped up and ready and go register with your opponent. With the minimal fee out of the way, just wait your turn to line up at the straightaway and wait for the lights to turn green.

Of course while you are waiting to race or just waiting to watch, you can feast your eyes across the way on the gorgeous girls of the Bikini Open. That's the place to party! Even if it is November, the heat is definitely turned up to the max at the Bikini Open on Saturday night at the Raceway. For this one, you may need to grab your ice pack to cool down.

If you still want to reminisce then see your favorite classics compete at the track or up close, displayed in the paddock area. If you are into classic cars then don't miss this chance at nostalgia as it is a definite stop by for classic and vintage car lovers.

All of the above serve as a little prelude to what is going to happen in this wild weekend of excitement. But with six to eight thousand petrol heads together, what do you expect? This year the Mardi Gras of petrol heads will be attended by members of Nissan Bayan, Club Mitsu, Porsche Club, Manila Sports Car Club, Ferrari Club, Miata Club, Mad Dogs, Big Bikers and an expected turnout of 900 members of the Philippine Scooter Federation. That alone will be a sight to see as they drive in.

Everyone is congregating for the 48 hour party at the Philippine Motorsports Festival on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Subic International Raceway in Olongapo city. Tickets will be available at the gate, or if you want them earlier you can call 772-4050 or 671-6926. Be there!

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Bank of Japan may ease corporate funding

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan may announce steps to make more funds available to companies after a two-day policy board meeting that began on Monday, an attempt to ease the impact of government plans to clean up banks' huge bad loans.

But the nine-member board is likely to stand firm in the face of growing calls for a looser monetary policy, as the money market is largely stable and the economic picture, while far from bright, has not changed much since it eased policy last month.

BOJ sources have told Reuters the policymakers could look at broadening the variety of asset-backed commercial paper (ABCP) it accepts as collateral in its money market operations.

In particular, the use of ABCP backed by accounts receivable—commercial payments that have yet to be received—could become a topic, the sources said.

"I wouldn't be surprised if the BOJ comes up with corporate funding measures next week as it said at its last meeting that it would look into possible steps," said Mamoru Yamazaki, chief economist at Barclays Capital.

The government's reform drive is expected to make banks even more reluctant to extend fresh lending to firms, which could leave smaller firms particularly vulnerable because they depend heavily on direct lending from banks.

Wider use of ABCP would in theory make it easier for them to acquire funds directly from the money market.

But Yamazaki and other economists are skeptical that the measures will have any substantial impact on the economy.

Yamazaki said the effect would only be indirect as the BOJ would not buy ABCP directly but simply accept it as collateral.

The BOJ extended its 19-month-old "quantitative easing" by raising the target for excess bank reserves to 15-20 trillion yen ($124.6-166.2 billion) from 10-15 trillion yen at its previous meeting, leaving even more liquidity in the system to cushion the side-effects of accelerated efforts to dispose of bad loans.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's administration unveiled a much-awaited economic package in late October, centering on measures to tackle the bad-loan problem —likely to pile more deflationary pressure on the ailing economy in the near term.

"The BOJ played catch with the government by offering support for its bad-loan measures but things haven't really progressed much on the government's side," said Shuji Shirota, an economist at Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein.

"Therefore, they see no need to take further initiatives and ease more," he added.

The Tokyo stock market's banking sector sub-index lost nearly 10 percent last week on fears that government moves to hasten the cleanup of non-performing loans would hit bank capital hard and lead to nationalization of some.

Analysts say Tokyo's falling share prices will be a matter of concern for the policy board but broad economic conditions have not changed dramatically since the Oct. 30 meeting so members probably see no compelling reason to act.

BOJ Governor Masaru Hayami said on Friday that there was little the central bank could directly do now about recent steep falls in banks' share prices.

"For the time being, we can only watch developments," he said on his way to a meeting of top economic advisors to Koizumi.

Many economists see no real change in BOJ policy until the first quarter of 2003 unless market conditions change greatly.

"I think there's an 80- to 90-percent chance there will be more BOJ easing by the end of March," said Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein's Shirota.

"We've confirmed positive GDP (gross domestic product) growth but there's a great chance it will be minus in the fourth quarter. The government will compile an extra budget by January and there will be much talk of financial crisis toward the fiscal year-end in March," Shirota added.

The government said last Wednesday that GDP rose a real 0.7 percent in July-September from the previous quarter.

Economists do not see the central bank venturing into uncharted waters by taking unorthodox and controversial measures, such as inflation-targeting or including foreign bonds as part of its money market operations.

"There's a debate even within the BOJ about including foreign bonds as part of its market operations but that's not the majority view," said Kenji Arata, economist at MCM Asia-Pacific.

Reuters

China leaps into Starbucks era

BEIJING— China is zooming into the 21st century, its skylines shooting heavenward like some souped-up computer-design program gone haywire. Internet use is soaring and Starbucks has invaded Beijing's imperial fortress, the Forbidden City. But China's Leninist politics remain frozen in time.

In 1997, dissidents emboldened by the leadership's laissez-faire treatment of the economy and its abandonment of any pretense of reining in convulsive social changes tested the waters by forming the China Democracy Party.

Trying to follow the law, organizers attempted to register the group. It was banned, and some two dozen organizers were convicted of subversion and sent to prison.

The few dissidents raising their voices during this year's party congress did so from overseas, where most lucky enough to regain their freedom now live.

In five years, Beijing's streets have changed beyond recognition: Low-slung dumpling and noodle shops along the Avenue of Eternal Peace have vanished, replaced by block-long malls and "six-star" hotels. Dusty northern suburbs have been paved over by industrial parks.

The Asian financial crisis decimated regional economies in 1997 but left China unscathed, apart from a short-lived decline in foreign investment. China's economy is growing by more than 7 percent a year, and showcase cities like Beijing and Shanghai feature better food, better dress and better public transport.

In the walled compounds of defunct factories, high-rise apartment buildings have sprouted—unaffordable for workers who once toiled there. They now scrape by peddling socks, shoe insoles and flowers on city sidewalks. Laughing groups of boys hauling barrels of restaurant slop in the wee hours zip back to their farms on newly motorized bicycle carts.

AP

Singapore's crucial export growth slows

SINGAPORE— Singapore's shaky economic recovery stumbled Monday, with the release of key export data showing the growth rate slowed markedly to 5.7 percent in October from a year earlier.

The waning performance of non-oil domestic exports (NODX), particularly to the United States, was in sharp contrast to the 16.9-percent rise in September.

The NODX, regarded as the barometer of Singapore's economic health, they fell 3.1 percent in October from the previous month to 8.86 billion Singapore dollars ($5.03 billion).

The figures were released just hours after the government slashed its growth forecast for the year to 2.0-2.5 percent from 3.0-4.0 percent after releasing bleak third-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) figures.

The economy grew 3.9 percent from a year earlier but it dived 10.10 percent from the previous quarter, against 13.4-percent growth in the second quarter.

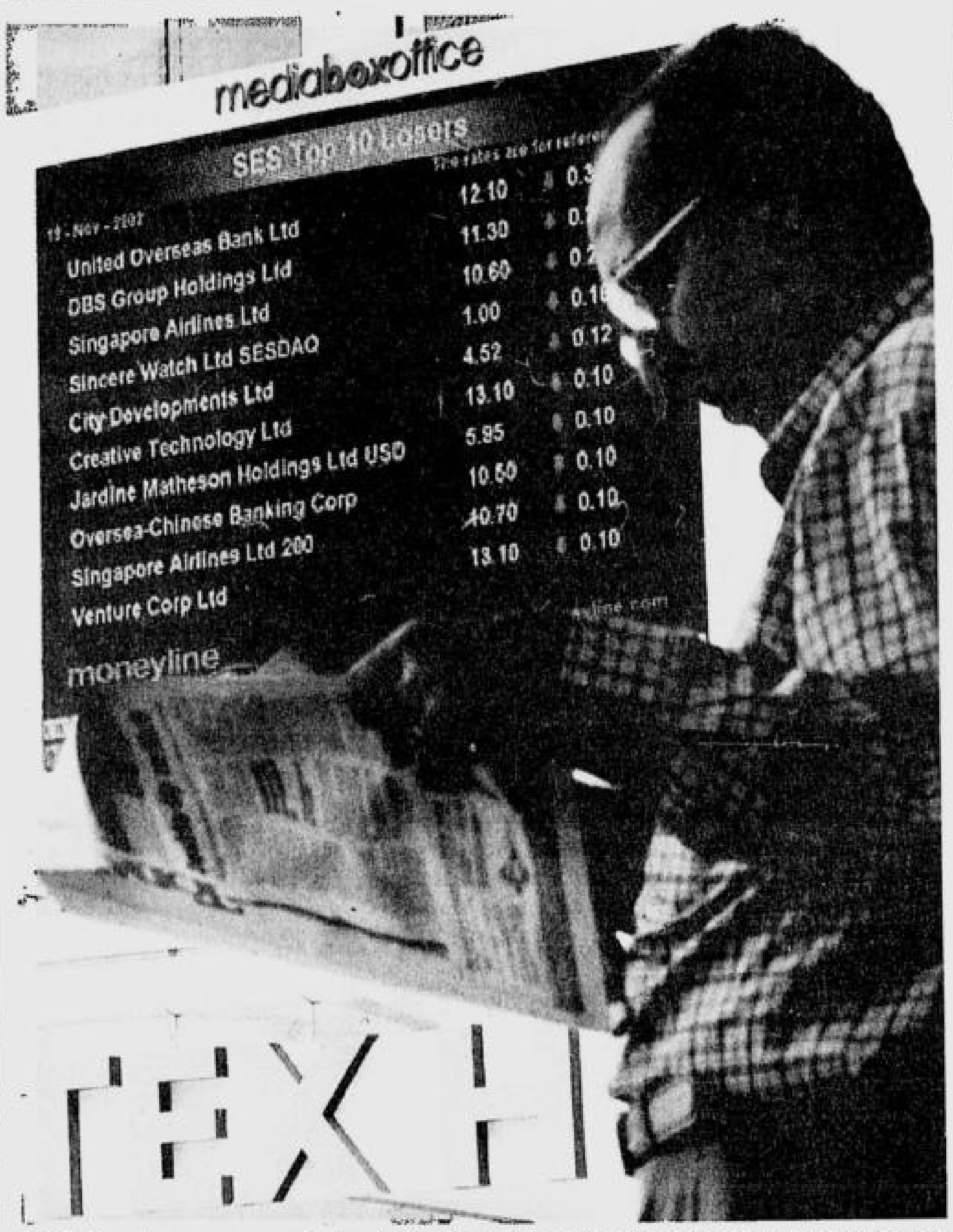
The weak performance underscored government warnings of a possible second recession just months after the tiny republic emerged from its worst ever slump.

"The moderation was largely due to the slower growth in NODX of electronics, although that of non-electronics managed to hold up in the month," Singapore's trade body, International Enterprise Singapore (IES), said in a statement.

Electronic products, which comprise the major part of the NODX, grew by a marginal 0.9 percent in October from a year earlier, down from a robust 16.2 percent the previous month.

The mild increase was supported mainly by continued growth in personal computer (PC) parts, consumer electronics and telecommunications equipment.

AFP



A MAN reads a newspaper in front of a giant billboard flashing Singapore's stocks indices at Raffles Place in Singapore. Singapore share prices closed the morning lower after the government cut its 2002 GDP growth forecast to 2-2.5 percent from 3-4 percent, triggering renewed selling in the market, dealers said. AFP

United unveils business plan

CHICAGO—United Airlines, racing to avoid bankruptcy, on Sunday released more details of a business plan aimed at getting a $1.8-billion federal loan guarantee, including shrinking itself by about one quarter and making an operating profit in 2004.

The No. 2 US airline said it expected about 9,000 more job cuts from its current staff of about 83,000, but gave no details about a timetable or where they would originate. Before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks threw the airline industry into havoc, United had about 100,000 workers.

United's parent, UAL Corp., has posted billions of dollars in losses last year and in 2002 as the industry remained mired in a historic downturn.

It will be cutting its flight schedule, also known as capacity, by an additional 6 percent in 2003, leaving the airline about 23 percent smaller than it was before the attacks on New York and Washington.

In details submitted in a financial recovery plan to the Air Transportation Stabilization Board, UAL also said it expected to retire an additional 49 aircraft. The company is based in Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

The airline has asked the ATSB to guarantee $1.8 billion of a $2-billion loan. United spokesperson Rich Nelson said Sunday that it released new details to the public at the same time as it got the word out to employees.

The key to an expected turnaround is $2.5 billion in annual profit improvements, including $1.1 billion in annual labor cost savings and another $1.4 billion a year in non-labor cost savings and revenue enhancements, United said.

Reuters

Most US firms not hiring in early 2003

CHICAGO—US employers do not plan to boost hiring in the first quarter of 2003, but they are more optimistic about expanding jobs than they were in the first quarter of 2002, a survey released on Monday said.

Moreover, US hiring levels remained above those seen during the post-recessionary early 1990s, said Jeffrey Joerres, chair and CEO of Manpower Inc., the world's second largest employment agency, of the latest quarterly data.

The first quarter of the year is traditionally the slowest hiring period, and Manpower's quarterly survey results reflected that pattern, Joerres said. But when the seasonal impact was removed, employment prospects appeared slightly better than the past two quarters.

Of nearly 16,000 employers interviewed, 62 percent said they intended to maintain current staff levels during the first quarter of 2003, the same figure seen in the fourth quarter of 2002, Manpower said.

Reuters

Thailand drops plans to restrict foreign shops

BANGKOK—Thailand said on Monday it had dropped plans to restrict the businesses of foreign superstores, which hold a big share of the Thai retail market, because it feared retaliation under international trade rules.

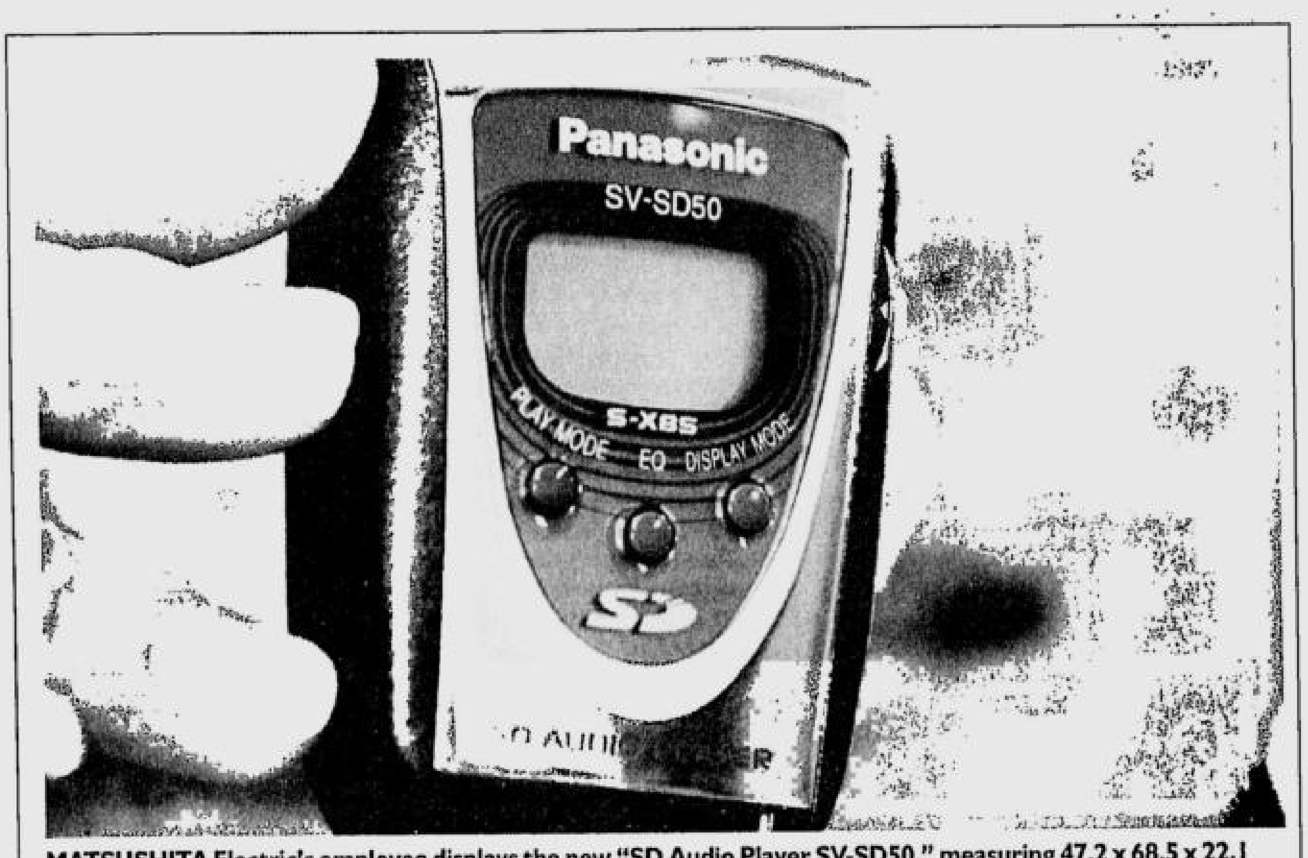
Deputy Commerce Minister Wattana Muangsuk, who supervises the government's retail policy, told Reuters the government had decided instead to use city planning laws to regulate the rapid expansion of multinational companies, which now control more than half Thailand's market for superstores.

"If we pass a law to control these superstores, France or Britain will retaliate against us with trade sanctions," Wattana said in an interview. "What will then happen to our export-based sectors like agriculture, garment or tourism?"

The Thai government announced plans in August to restrict the opening hours of big foreign-owned shops in an effort to protect smaller, Thai-owned shops, which had complained foreign competitors were using unfair practices such as loss-leading prices to build market share.

Foreign-owned stores have annual sales in Thailand of around 170-200 billion baht ($3.91-$4.60 billion), industry analysts say, and their market share is growing rapidly.

Reuters



MATSUSHITA Electric's employee displays the new "SD Audio Player SV-SD50," measuring 47.2 x 68.5 x 22.1 mm and weighing 41.4 g. SV-SD50 enables to download digital music on the stamp sized SD memory card from PC or Internet. It will be on the market next month with an estimated price of 15,000 yen ($125). AFP

WTO mini-summit sees success on medicine plan

SYDNEY—Ministers at the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting on Friday said they made progress toward delivering cheaper medicines to the world's poor as two days of informal talks ended.

The mini-summit of 25 trade ministers from the 145-nation group met as part of the Doha round of trade liberalization.

The meeting was designed to smooth the way toward the next full ministerial round in Cancun, Mexico, in September next year.

"It's been a very, very productive day," said Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile as the 25 trade ministers wrapped up their meeting.

Other ministers agreed as they managed to avoid anti-globalization protests and tackled the thorny issue of intellectual property rights held by corporate pharmaceutical giants.

"You will see by December a breakthrough in this regard," said Arun Shourie, India's minister for disinvestment, commerce and industry. There is a Dec. 31 deadline for agreement in the Geneva-based WTO.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick also said he thought there was strong convergence on easing the cost and improving the availability of medicine for the poor.

"We're not totally there yet, but I came away believing this is something we will do by the end of this year," he said.

Anti-WTO protests fizzled in the face of a strong police presence, which turned the Olympic Park summit venue into a fortress, and under a burst of unexpected rain in Australia.

A group of about 500 demonstrators scuffled briefly with police in a half-hearted attempt to tear down barricades about 200 meters (600 feet) from the conference site. Police Commander Dick Adams said 35 protesters were arrested in the melee.

"We created a perimeter around this place to make sure that we could ensure the safety of the delegates that were coming here," Adams told reporters.

Reuters

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Caltex introduces enhanced Delo 400 Multigrade engine oil

CALTEX
Delo 400

CHEVRONTEXACO Global Lubricants, an industry-leading marketer of heavy duty diesel engine oil and other premium lubricants and specialty products worldwide, launches its flagship Caltex Delo 400 Multigrade SAE 15W-40 which has been enhanced to exceed the recently announced American Petroleum Institute (API) CI-4 requirements. It is widely known that Caltex recently became part of ChevronTexaco Corp., formed by the merger of Chevron Corp. and Texaco Inc. in October 2001.

While the current Delo 400 has exceeded the latest API CI-4 requirements since 1998, the product has been enhanced to provide a level of performance beyond the latest specification.

Delo 400 is uniquely formulated with special ISOSYN base oils that allow the oil to withstand chemical breakdown at high operating temperatures. Then, coupled with a special additive package, it gives the oil the ability to control soot loading and prevent abrasive wear on metal surfaces. These give exceptional engine protection thereby contributing to the overall profitability of fleet companies.

Bolstering Delo 400's claim of exceeding the performance requirements of API CI-4 is its ability to meet the extended drain specifications of both Cummins CES 20078 and Mack EO-N Premium Plus. Thus proves ChevronTexaco's ongoing commitment to help customers realize bottomline savings by providing them with premium products and solutions.

The enhanced Caltex Delo 400 Multigrade will be launched in the country on Nov. 19 at the Holiday Inn Resort in Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga and that event will be highlighted by product presentations for Caltex customers and prospects. It will be preceded by a golf tournament in the morning at the Mimosa Golf & Country Club. Customer meetings in the Visayas and Mindanao, specifically in Bacolod and Davao will be done to promote the product in the coming weeks.

The enhanced Caltex Delo 400 Multigrade will be launched in the country on Nov. 19, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Resort in Mimosa Leisure Estate, Clark Field, Pampanga and that event will be highlighted by product presentations for Caltex customers and prospects

A history of firsts

THIS LIST of industry milestones continues to grow and has firmly established the Delo brand name worldwide as the symbol of technology leadership and unsurpassed performance for all types of diesel engines.

To maintain this leading position, the Caltex Delo line is continuously reevaluated and upgraded to meet the increasingly severe lubrication requirements of current and future engine designs. A new Delo formulation is only put on the market after thorough evaluation in both laboratory and field tests to assure its outstanding performance in service under all operating conditions.

- 1935—First compounded diesel engine oil introduced as RPM DELO Engine Lubricating Oil (DELO), making the high speed diesel engine feasible.
- 1943—First compounded diesel engine oil that could be used in any diesel engine. Delo's outstanding performance in a wide variety of military equipment during World War II made it the standard for military engine oil specifications. Adoption of Delo by the U.S. Navy made long-range submarine operation possible.
- 1953—First multigrade engine oil.
- 1984—First all-hydroprocessed Group II base oil used for Delo.
- 1989—First documented million miles [illegible] overhaul engine life in Caterpillar [illegible].
- 1994—First oil developed in cooperation with Japanese diesel engine manufacturers for use outside of Japan (Delo [illegible]).
- 1996—First documented million mile engine life for the three major US engine manufacturers—Caterpillar, Cummins and Detroit Diesel.
- 1996—First product claiming performance levels to PC-7 (the API CH-4).
- 1998—First to run Cummins M11 and Mack T-8 tests to gauge the impact of increased soot levels as a result of the use of retarded diesel fuel injection timing to reduce emissions.
- 1999—Delo 400 is the first heavy duty engine oil to meet the API CH-4, Cummins CES 20076 and Mack EO-M Plus extended drain specifications.
- Recognized for outstanding performance, Delo products have been honored by Lubricants World Magazine in 1999, 2000 and 2001 because these products are poised to contribute greatly to the achievement and enrichment of the lubricant industry.
- 2001—Delo 400 is the first world oil by meeting the performance specification of Global DHD-1, a combination of the premium American, European and Japanese specifications, API CH-4, ACEA E5 and JASO DH-1.
- 2002—Delo 400 is the first heavy duty engine oil to meet the API CI-4, Cummins CES 20078 and Mack EO-N Premium extended drain specifications.
- Caltex (Philippines) Inc. sells Delo through its extensive service station and distributor network nationwide. Delo is also sold directly to fleet customers. Caltex recently became part of ChevronTexaco Corp. formed by the merger of Chevron Corp. and Texaco Inc. in October 2001. ChevronTexaco Corp. is the third largest global energy company in terms of global oil reserves and the fourth largest in terms of global oil and natural gas production. The company operates in 180 countries and markets its full range of products under the Chevron, Texaco and Caltex brand.

Caltex Delo customers speak

"SINCE I started using Delo 400, the efficiency of my bus line increased. This increase in efficiency translates to more savings. When it comes to diesel engine oil performance, Caltex Delo 400 is second to none. With Delo 400, my vehicles are always at its best condition."— **Marty Mercado, SVP for Maintenance and Operations, Pacita Liner/Southstar**

"As you all know, I am a 100-percent Mercedes truck fleet operator. Naturally, I want only the best for my diesel engines. That's why I choose only Delo 400. With Delo 400, I am completely worry-free about the conditions of my engines. I am assured that my trucks are always in top shape with Delo's outstanding performance. What more can I ask for? Delo 400 delivers everything I need in a diesel engine oil."— **Boy Vergara, President, Vergara Lines**

"Delo 400 is without a doubt a wise investment. It extends the life of engines especially those of hardworking vehicles that's always on the go like our buses. It has far less mechanical problems and reduced my maintenance and operating costs. Best of all, it also allows me to gain more savings and increased my profits. Caltex Delo 400 really delivers exceptional customer value. Nothing works like Delo 400—the leader in the industry."— **Hernando Togle, VP for Operations, Philtranco**

What Drives You

1206
1484
1222

The bottomline

As one of the biggest bus transportation companies in the country, we take care of a very large fleet. Here, customer service and vehicle availability is our priority. That's why we use DELO diesel engine oil. It keeps our buses in top condition. They can stay longer on the road, we get less downtime, and save on our operating cost. DELO really helps our bottomline.

Theodore M. Torrillo
Vice-President, Maintenance
Yanson Group of Companies
(Bachelor Express, Rural Transit, Ceres Liner)

Delo
What Drives You CALTEX

All about Delo 400

QUESTION Since Delo 400 has been providing this high level of performance and protection since 1998, why is it now being reformulated?

ANSWER From the time of its introduction, Delo 400 has represented a substantial margin of performance over competitive API CH-4 products. The advent of API CH-4 has forced the upgrading of many of these products, closing the performance gap with Delo 400. We wished to re-establish the performance advantage always enjoyed by our Delo 400 customers.

What specifications does Delo 400 meet?

Delo 400 provides soot control, wear protection, oxidation resistance and corrosion protection significantly above API CI-4 limits. It easily meets the "beyond API CI-4" specifications of Cummins (CES20078) and Mack Trucks (Mack EO-N Premium Plus). Delo 400 also meets the oil performance requirements of all major 4-stroke diesel engine manufacturers including Caterpillar Detroit Diesel, Navistar and Volvo, along with the challenging requirements of MTU (Category 2), Mercedes-Benz 228.3 and ACEA E5. As first diesel engine oil to meet the requirements of Global DHD-1, its credentials as a global diesel engine oil designed for the global range of diesel engines are well established.

I operate Japanese diesel engines. So is Delo 400 also the right product for me?

As a global diesel engine oil, the first to meet Global DHD-1, Delo 400 has definitely been designed with the requirements of Japanese diesel engines in mind. It is one of the few global diesel engine oils to fully meet and be qualified under the requirements of JASO (Japan Automotive Standards Organization) category DH-1. Delo 400 was also the first diesel engine oil in the world to demonstrate passing the JASO DH-1 wear test at double test length!

How does new Delo 400 compare to a synthetic engine oil?

Delo 400 can give far better engine protection than even a major competitive synthetic oil. This was demonstrated in a 20-vehicle field test, at 65,000 kn drain intervals. Delo 400 provides significantly less wear and equal fuel economy at a far lower cost.

What is an ISOSYN base oil?

ISOSYN base oil are more highly refined than Group I base oils which allows the oil to withstand "oxidation", chemical breakdown, at higher operating temperatures common to today's engine designs. In addition, the unique relationship between the ISOSYN base oils and the additive package benefits soot loading and soot abrasive wear resistance.

What about older engines? How will they perform with new Delo 400?

Delo 400 has unsurpassed soot carrying capability, as well as corrosive wear control. This can help maximize the life of any engine. As well as meeting latest performance specifications Delo 400 meets earlier, lower performance requirements as originally recommended for old diesel engines.

How far could I extend my current drain intervals?

Delo 400 may allow extended drain intervals. Its superior soot handling and oxidation stability, and base number retention properties give the potential for tremendous savings opportunities in oil, filter, and maintenance costs along with increased equipment availability.

As always, the best method to ensure proper drain intervals is through preventive maintenance, using oil analysis, since vehicles vary in equipment make, fuel economy, fuel sulfur levels and operating conditions.

How will new Delo 400 assist my profitability?

Delo 400 can:

- Extend engine life
- Extend oil and filter life
- Improve fuel economy
- Prevent soot damage
- Reduce downtime
- Reduce operating costs
- Increase revenue-producing hours

How long can Delo 400 keep me running?

Delo 400 was the first engine oil to document a million miles with no overhaul in a Caterpillar 3406B engine. Likewise, it was the first to make a million miles with Cummins and Detroit Diesel. Delo 400 gives you a great opportunity to extend engine as well as oil life.

Is Delo 400 suitable for EGR-equipped engines?

Cooled-EGR (Exhaust Gas Recirculation) is a method of controlling nitrous oxide emissions. EGR is standard equipment for most of the latest diesel engines sold in the United States. EGR causes more severe operating conditions in the engine and imposes on the engine oil to provide more protection. Delo 400 was designed to exceed these performance requirements.

Delo breaks new barriers

By Joel V. Nigos

DELO is already an established brand name worldwide. Through the years, it has become a symbol of unsurpassed performance for all types of diesel engines.

But even with this technological leadership, Delo is continuously improved to meet the needs of future engine designs.

Today, Caltex again introduces an enhanced Delo 400 which has exceeded the latest API CI-4 requirements.

Steve Mulvaney, General Manager for Lubricants Sales and Marketing, recognizes that with Filipinos relying heavily on public transportation, there's a big diesel engine oil market in the country. This market, known as fleet customers, behave differently from consumers.

"Foremost among their priorities is to prevent equipment downtime and ensure round-the-clock availability of the equipment because this contributes to their profitability," explains Mulvaney.

He adds that one way that Caltex can help is by providing high quality lubricants and solutions to ensure high engine reliability.

This, he hopes, would be addressed by the enhanced Delo 400.

MULVANEY

The enhanced Delo 400 is formulated with special ISOSYN technology that allows the oil to withstand chemical breakdown at high operating temperatures. Then, coupled with a special additive package, it gives the oil the ability to control soot problems and prevent abrasive wear on metal surfaces.

Mulvaney also says that while the competition in the region and the lubricants market is tough, the company is able to operate reliably and safely.

"Within the ChevronTexaco Global Lubricants, we are one of the top performing countries," he emphasizes.

He also admits the fact that they are affected by the downtrend in the economy and are taking steps to cope with it.

"These are very challenging times to achieve business targets. By controlling our expenses, consolidating our assets, and striving for operational excellence, we're confident we will survive in the long term," he says.

Mulvaney says that with Caltex's technologically driven, performance proven Delo product line, Caltex owns the largest market share in diesel engine oil.

"We've gained a lot of loyalty because Delo has proven itself in the field. Our track record includes supplying the top two largest transportation companies in the country," he says.

Asked where Caltex Philippines wanted to take its lubes business in the Philippines in the next five years, he says, with the steady growth of the market and competition very tough, the company's focus would be to strengthen its brand pull and and deliver its promises.

Caltex was founded by Chevron and Texaco in 1936 and existed as a joint venture until 2001 when the two mother companies merged to form ChevronTexaco. The merger created a market-leading energy company with enormous technology and business expertise.

This new vibrant company represents tens of billions of dollars in assets, and an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars each year in research and development. The huge competitive advantage provided by the merger means that you receive the world's most technologically advanced products designed with a focus on your success.

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Maintaining the highest standards is why we've been at the forefront of diesel engine oil technology for over half a decade. To do this, we've had to anticipate the needs of both engine manufacturers and fleet maintenance managers - then we developed an engine oil to match. We've also met and even exceeded the latest API CI-4 requirements since 1998. This means unsurpassed soot dispersion,sludge control and wear protection.The result is that today's latest engines, as well as older engines are able to operate at higher horsepower while maintaining maximum engine durability and fuel economy. What's more, through its ISOSYN™ Technology, Delo 400 resists oxidization allowing the oil to operate at elevated temperatures without breaking down. New Delo 400. No other engine oil comes close.

Number of vehicles in my fleet = 60
Average annual kilometers per vehicle = 120,000
Average annual engine oil
used per vehicle = 76 liters

Savings per liter of Delo 400 = ₱ 270
Savings per vehicle (270 x 76) = ₱ 20,520
Annual savings for my fleet
(20,520 x 60) = ₱1,231,200

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REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

MAXIMUM UTILIZATION OF SPACE

Making the most of a 20-sq.-m. house

Text and Photos by Tessa R. Salazar

THE WORLD keeps getting smaller, and so are houses. No thanks to the shrinking value of the peso, the allowable minimum space for a socialized house has come down to 20 square meters, the size of a one-car garage of an "ordinary" house in Forbes Park. So, how would a family of four fit comfortably into a 20-sq.-m. house?

For that, you have to ask the families themselves.

Lourd Tabotabo, 27, a power plant mechanic who works for an independent power producer in Navotas—a Meralco supplier—purchased a 20-sq.-m. house in Karlaville Subdivision in Rosario, Cavite, after nine years of renting a house with his father and mother at nearby Tramo. Karlaville Subdivision is a project of Fortune Star Construction and Development Corp.

With the help of the Pag-Ibig housing loan, his monthly amortization is P1,697 a month, as opposed to his monthly rental of P2,000. Lourd will finish his Pag-Ibig dues in 25 years.

The 20-sq.-m. house with two rooms and one toilet and bath is also home to his wife Rosalie, one-year-old daughter Ann Nicole, and Ramon and Ofelia, Lourd's parents.

WIDER sliding glass window as well as light-colored floor tiles and paint

SLIGHTLY elevated ceiling and light-colored interior give a more spacious look

Renovating the house

Through company loans and side jobs, he was able to renovate the house. He replaced the jalousies with wider sliding glass windows, attached exhaust fans to the kitchen, put light-colored floor tiles, and attached grills on the terrace and the window for security. The light-colored interior gave a more spacious look, the illusion aided by mirrors Lourd had installed.

Lourd also maximized space by using double-deck bed, foldable tables and chairs, using only a few appliances (such as a component and a TV set), and portable monoblocs that could be put in one corner if not in use.

Wise use of space

Lourd has used his space wisely, if you ask Jo de Guzman, an architect. Using Lourd's example, Jo has these helpful hints for owners of similar-sized houses:

- Use only compact furniture and appliances.
- Use double-deck beds.
- Use a sofa bed, which you can use for visitors who need to sleep in your house.
- Explore foldaway systems, such as foldable beds and foldable ironing tables.
- Use light-colored paints and avoid dark colors.
- If you have choices of door sizes and windows, maximize the openings to bring in more natural light. Do not cover your home with dark and heavy curtains, but use light-colored and lightweight curtains that you can draw up or down as needed.
- Maximize the walls by using storage cabinets. Folding chairs can be inserted in a six-inch wall cabinet.
- The ceiling height helps much in creating a livable space, so bring it up as high as you can. If you just bought a house and there is still space up, you can slope the ceiling up so you create the feeling of more space.

Usually, a house is bought bare, so you do the renovating—including that of the ceiling. Nowadays, low-cost 20-sq.-m. houses are built with a standard minimum 8 feet of ceiling height. You can make your ceiling more spacious by removing the plywood panels and restructuring the ceiling system.

Doing wonders

If you bought a house with no ceiling yet, build it with a slope, or with a stair going up through it. Another way is by building an attic.

Even the roof area could be put to use. If the roof has a good slope to it and is well ventilated, it can be converted into a bedroom. Take note, though, that good insulation systems must be installed here to keep this area cool during the hottest time of the day.

You can do wonders with a small house, but not miracles. De Guzman says that, in the end, you could only put in—or take out—so much. "In a 20-sq.-m. home you can only have a 2-meter by 3-meter private room and a multipurpose sala, dining and kitchen space in one area, and a small toilet."

Good for newlyweds

De Guzman says a 20-sq.-m. house is good only for newlyweds. He even goes on to advise couples living in such a house to defer having a child until they could afford to expand the house.

Says De Guzman: "Once you have a child, he or she would have to occupy double the requirement in space. The baby's stuff alone occupies a lot."

One drawback to renovating is the cost. Constructing a loft (or mezzanine) in a high-ceiling house could be more expensive than Lourd's P180,000 house, depending on the location.

Subdivision and Housing Developers Association president JJ Atencio says the construction of a house would depend on how much the developer can afford to spend, given the cost of the land, labor and interest.

Habitat begins building homes for December turnover

By Charles E. Buban

CHRISTMAS would be a lot merrier for several less fortunate families this year as Habitat for Humanity Philippines initiates its third Family Christmas Build.

The FCB is Habitat Philippines' annual Christmas event in which families are encouraged to come together and help build homes for the less fortunate.

Now on its third year, Habitat Philippines is aiming to help 50 families in different sites across the country build their own homes during the Yuletide season.

According to Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo who led the inaugural launch in Polo, Valenzuela, the FCB gives families an opportunity to celebrate Christmas in a truly meaningful way—by helping build a decent and durable home, families not only give other less-fortunate Filipino families a chance to build a home, they also give them hope."

20 affordable homes

The Valenzuela site was selected by Habitat to produce 20 affordable homes for the Habitat Philippines home partners.

Turnover of the houses is set on Dec. 14 with the participation of different corporations which have given their support.

In the past, the challenge of Habitat Philippines to help eliminate substandard housing in the country was answered mainly by these donor corporations.

"Through the FCB, we have also encouraged other people, not just corporations, who are willing to share their resources, time and skills to help provide homes for those in need," said Angela Backstrom, Habitat Philippines resource development director.

Inaugural year

The first year of the FCB saw 52 homes built by corporate and individual volunteers nationwide, with another 22 completed and turned over to home partners last year.

Through the FCB program, Habitat Philippines encourages families to go to the sites and work side by side with home partner families and other volunteers to provide those in need with durable, decent and affordable houses.

Habitat Philippines, one of the country affiliates of Habitat for Humanity International, is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry established in 1988. Its mission is to build simple, decent homes for Filipinos belonging to the lowest 30 percent of the country's population.

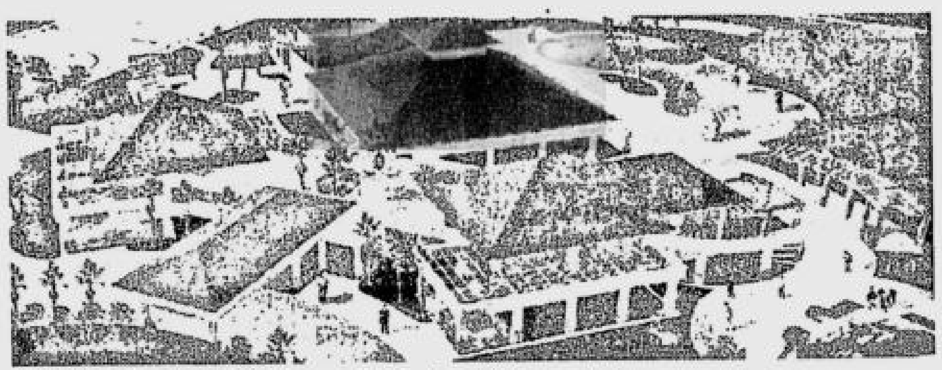
At present Habitat Philippines works with its affiliates in 27 sites in the country.

Ayala Land subsidiary builds truly innovative communities

THE COMMUNITY Innovations Inc., an Ayala Land company, carves a record of firsts within its first year of public introduction in the sphere of providing homes for upwardly mobile professionals and growing families.

Angela dV. Lacson, CII president, reports that the second phase of its Verdana homes is on track to redo the record-setting sales that CII experienced for the first phase of Verdana Homes, which is located between Las Piñas and Bacoor.

CII sold out the first phase of Verdana Homes within one month of its market offering and all signs indicate that phase 2 is headed toward another sterling record.



ARCHITECT'S perspective of the Verdana Homes clubhouse

Building communities

At a press conference early this year, Lacson said that CII is committed to its vision of "building communities that stand the test of time." This, as CII provides innovations in its quality property that meet customers' aspirations while being affordable.

Verdana Homes' roster of features readily provides the reasons for its spectacular success. The individual homes provide significant customer input in construction and style.

The project has a spacious clubhouse for neighborhood functions, landscaped gardens with fruit trees, fully stocked playground for children, jogging paths, basketball and tennis courts.

There is also a CII ace in its ability to draw upon the resources of Ayala Land, its parent company, for maintaining and supporting Verdana Homes. Its after-sales service of providing round-the-clock security and water supply is an asset that separates CII from other developers that suffer from the unwanted "build and forget" syndrome.

Quality living

Put together, the CII approach to quality living is spelled out in Verdana Homes at prices that are within reach of the market.

"We count as our target market upcoming executives, professionals and entrepreneurs," Lacson says. These are the people who know quality and value for money.

In design, the 25-hectare development evokes the essence of charming, comfortable communities of California hillside suburbs, like those around the San Francisco Bay Area.

Mediterranean-style architecture for Verdana Homes provides a unified theme that by itself builds community identity while allowing for homeowners' personal tastes.

The peaceful place that blends into its environment is a sure stress reducer, yet it is only 10 minutes from Ayala Alabang and the drive to the Makati business district can be made without much road rage.

More great offerings

The success of Verdana Homes has only whetted the appetite of CII for more great offerings. CII is looking to bring its concept of community building right into the Makati CBD. It's called The Columns, Ayala Avenue: a high-rise condominium complex that implements the CII ideals of quality, affordability and community.

CII innovates by catering to the worthwhile dreams of young urban achievers while drawing from the Ayala Land heritage of community building and good investments.

Doubling investments with function, The Columns, Ayala Avenue is a dream come true for many young urbanites who can now live a stone's throw away from their workplace and entertainment at reasonable prices.

Land title system under assault: Who will defend it?

By Florentino S. Dulalia Jr.
Contributor

THE TORRENS system of land titles and deeds registration is under a continuing assault by land-grabbers. A land title no longer inspires the confidence it used to have. Usually, a careful purchaser of title undertakes a research into its very source, the so-called "mother title," and laboriously probes into the series of transactions and transfers, before he parts with dear money. Otherwise, in the absence of a land title insurance in this country, he takes it at his own peril.

This is according to a growing number of landowners, businessmen, bankers and homeowners who speak from experience. They have been cheated of their land or are in danger of losing precious property to land-grabbers. Thanks to corrupt judges ordering equally corrupt registry of deeds factotums to issue land titles, never mind if these overlap previous titles—it's all in the performance of their "ministerial duty." Thanks, too, to lawyers whose hearts bleed for the landless "poor," whose practice avails of powerful connections, and whose competent but shrewd, service deserves a hearty share in the loot. The irregularities discourage the flow of local and foreign investments into the country's business and commercial sectors. Thus, land-grabbers, with their cohorts, are economic saboteurs.

Large-scale illegal and dubious land-titling activities, for instance, like those documented four years ago by the Senate of the Philippines and the Department of Justice (DOJ) in the Maysilo Estate titling cases, no longer shock the sensibilities of citizens or compel concerned government agencies to act in defense of the integrity of the system.

As the DOJ report in 1997 on the Maysilo Estate scandal reveals, the national government itself has been defrauded or stands to be defrauded. For instance, despite its legitimate title issued more than four decades ago, the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System lost its huge compound in Caloocan City to a claimant some 10 years ago. The claimant's titles came from titles found fraudulent by the DOJ and the Senate. For some unexplained reason, the MWSS management appeared not interested in getting back its property until the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel, headed by a new counsel, recently appealed to the Supreme Court to review its "erroneous" decision. But, a little more than a month after, the counsel was yanked out of his position as if to stop the OGCC action.

The DOJ report on the Maysilo Estate titling irregularities disclosed that if the claimants to the disputed Caloocan City lands now in the names of present owners, succeed in ousting them, the government exposes itself to scores of court suits by the vendees in sales contracts executed by it or entered into in its behalf by the National Housing Authority. Affected by the fake titles of the land-grabbers, among others, are portions of the North Diversion Highway, Edsa and the site of the Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City. In other parts of the country, even forest reservations, shores and other land and water resources are being grabbed by syndicates.

A few years back, the Land Registration Authority took the first serious effort in protecting the integrity of the land titling system. After getting the clearance of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) and its Build-Operate-Transfer Cabinet committee, the LRA conducted a public bidding for a land titling computerization project and finally awarded the BOT contract to a private proponent. In fact, a few months ago, the project was completing its pilot project phase when higher authorities decided to sidetrack the title computerization project. The private contractor had already spent a huge amount which the LRA would have to pay back to it. According to a report, the Neda now wants a combined computerization project for three government agencies, one of them being the LRA. What appears puzzling is that while the LRA project has been stopped, up to this time, there has been no official announcement, much less any plausible reasons given, for the government's costly change of mind at midstream.

This development, we hope, is not the result of any deliberate effort to derail the LRA titling computerization program

LAND/B9

Developers to deliver 237,000 houses by 2004

By Charles E. Buban

A LEADING national organization of private subdivision and housing developers in the country will sign before President Macapagal-Arroyo tomorrow a declaration committing to provide more than 200,000 new housing units before her term ends in 2004.

In a landmark announcement by the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, it pledged to deliver a total package of 237,076 units to be divided into three years: 82,992 units by year-end, 62,115 units by 2003 and 40,150 units by 2004.

Completing the package are the 51,819 units whose applications are still pending before the Department of Agrarian Reform and awaiting approval.

"This is a concrete realization that the government and private sector can harmonize their diverse objectives and work together toward a common goal," said SHDA chair Teofisto Guingona III who will meet with the President in Malacañan tomorrow at 7 p.m.

More mass housing

The SHDA said it is able to align its pledges with the government's national shelter objective of building more homes for the low- and middle-income market.

Based on the statistics released by the SHDA for the pledging session, almost 60 percent of the total pledges or about 110,174 units will be devoted to socialized and low-cost housing (costing up to P500,000).

Economic housing on the other hand will constitute 36 percent or 66,000 units. The pending DAR applications amounting to more than 50,000 units will also be mostly for socialized and low-cost housing.

"The SHDA believes that it is mass housing—and not high-end housing—which will generally propel the real estate sector in years to come," said SHDA national president Jesus Atencio.

"This also augurs well for the President's social reform agenda because most of the industry's resources will be used to directly benefit the larger number of low- and middle-income earners of our population, and thus impact positively on homelessness and the housing backlog," he added.

SHDA PLEDGE 200,000
Total Projected Housing Inventory
2002-2004

No. of Units	Socialized	Low Cost	Economic	Open Market	Total
Luzon	19,500	35,252	33,127	3,188	91,067
Visayas	5,731	18,793	2,980	134	27,638
Mindanao	5,503	19,438	12,604	-	37,545
NCR	2,350	3,607	17,712	4,338	28,007
TOTAL	33,084	77,090	66,423	7,660	184,257
Pending DAR Applications	51,819				
Grand Total	236,076 new housing units				

Concerted effort

The SHDA pledge to build more than 200,000 units is a concerted effort of the organization's 200 active membership composed of small, medium, large and publicly listed real estate companies and developers nationwide.

Of this, 72 SHDA developers, comprising 36 percent of the entire SHDA active membership, has pledge 266 housing projects which will provide new communities across the entire spectrum of socialized, low-cost, economic and open market housing.

Consisting of 51,000 units covering 1,131 hectares, the pledges include conversion and exemption applications of SHDA members still pending with the Department of Agrarian Reform.

Atencio stressed that because of Executive Order 45, and the commitment of Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to prioritize conversions for housing projects, these more than 50,000 housing units will form part of the commitment that the SHDA will build during the term of Ms Macapagal.

More projects expected

Atencio stressed that the SHDA's pledge to build more than 200,000 units until 2004 constitutes only a part of the total capability of the entire organization.

"Because SHDA's pledges are voluntary, we estimate that, for one reason or another, only 36 percent of our membership was able to submit their figures in time for the pledging session," he explained. "We are confident we can easily accomplish our commitment," he stated.

He emphasized that the pledges are not merely empty promises. Said Atencion: "They represent real projects that are either ongoing or programmed to start in 2003 or 2004. They are not only developer-specific, but also project-specific."

During their meeting tomorrow in Malacañang, Atencio will show the President where exactly and from whose developer they will be expecting the committed units.

Said Atencio: "Our commitments are also production-specific. We will inform the President as to how much socialized, low-cost, economic and open market housing units we can build up to 2004."

In fact, the SHDA is considering a joint special task force with the HUDCC for this purpose. "This way, we can easily monitor the progress of our pledge," he added.

Grateful for reforms

"We are doing this commitment under the banner 'SHDA Pledge 200,000' because we'd like to show the President and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair, Secretary Michael Defensor, that we are grateful for the reforms that the housing industry has been asking for.

The SHDA is specially grateful with the passage of the following laws or directives, which the group was able to lobby with the HUDCC:

- EO 45, signed by Ms Macapagal last year, which fast-tracks the processing of subdivision permits and licenses.
- Lowering of Home Development Mutual Fund end-user loan interest rates which has produced immediate effects in increased sales.
- Increase in the socialized and low-cost housing ceiling to P225,000 and P2 million, respectively.

"These reforms, among many others, are providing the necessary business climate that is greatly encouraging developers to fast-track their projects and build more houses," said Guingona III.

The SHDA chair added that the government must be patient and give them little more time to organize resources that could lead to the much-awaited boom in the mass housing sector next year.

Atencio said the SHDA wants to contribute to the economic development in the countryside, especially in Mindanao, providing jobs and business opportunities there.

"Indeed, SHDA's pledges indicate an increasing trend of locating housing projects outside the NCR, with Luzon and other key urban cities in Mindanao and Visayas as viable alternative location areas of new housing projects," he said.

The SHDA believes that it is mass housing—and not high-end housing—which will generally propel the real estate sector in years to come

NOW RISING Housing developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. announced that overall completion work for its Xavier Hills four-cluster residential enclave in New Manila, Quezon City, is now close to the 30 percent mark. Cluster 3 has been topped off at the 19th level while Cluster 2 is due for structural completion soon.

Bridge program brings hope to the countryside

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's thrust to spur economy development in the Philippine countryside through the Bridge Program continues with the recent inauguration of the 30-linear meter Hinipaan Bridge in Mercedes, Camarines Norte.

The new structure, which utilizes the Waagner-Biro modular bridge, is expected to stimulate business activity in Mercedes and strengthen its sociocultural links with neighboring municipalities.

Waagner-Biro, Austria's top steelwork company, is involved in the new construction, reconstruction, enlargement, reinforcement and repair of bridges; customized bridges; mechanical engineering and contract manufacturing. It is a subsidiary of We Holding AG, a group of companies with interests in medium-sized Austrian and international companies that are active in mechanical engineering, plant engineering and structural steelwork.

WB Holding AG subsidiaries are valued as competent suppliers and partners around the world and have been involved in such prestigious projects as the British Museum, the Donaustadt Bridge in Austria and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Spain.

Aside from the Philippines, Waagner-Biro has offices and projects in other Asian countries.

The inauguration of Hinipaan Bridge was attended by Waagner-Biro Philippines Inc. president and CEO Helmut Wuzela, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Christian Krepela, Interior Secretary Joey Lina Jr., Office of the Project Development Services director Normando Toledo, Gov. Jesus Typoco Jr. and other Region 3 DILG and Camarines Norte officials.

According to OPDS director Toledo, Hinipaan Bridge is a product of the concerted efforts of different government agencies and offices. "It was implemented during the administration of President Arroyo with the assistance of the Austrian government, executed by the OPDS and constructed by the Camarines Norte provincial government," the director explained.

The Austrian government has continued to invest in the Philippines despite the prolonged economic downturn. President Macapagal has lauded it for its support of the Bridge Program that aims to empower rural communities and help them attain higher levels of socioeconomic growth.

The program has other ongoing bridge installation projects with the DILG and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Land title . . .

From page B10

which aims precisely to clean up the present titling operation at the registries of deeds whose vaults have been the target of "*saksak-bunot*" operations of syndicates.

The situation should really force the national government to mount a no-nonsense campaign against "title banditry." Only decisive action and results will restore public respect for and confidence in land titles.

(Dulalia is the national president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association.)

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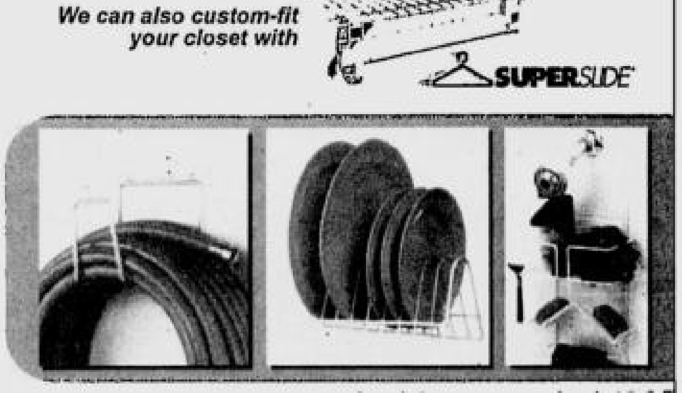

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Thrilling prizes await Globe users in promo

IT'S EXCITING enough whenever adventure calls. But it's definitely better and infinitely more exciting when adventure texts – especially when the prizes up for grabs are P3 million in cash and three Sport Trac SUVs! And this is just part of the thrill that one experiences everytime one watches the Great Globe Adventure game show and joins its interactive texting games.

Presented by Globe Handyphone, the Great Globe Adventure is the newest unique adventure-texting game show making great thrills possible on television and on your cellphone screens. Adventure lovers everywhere wouldn't want to miss each adrenaline-packed episode of the Great Globe Adventure shown every Sunday at 8:30 pm on GMA-7, hosted by Paolo Bediones and Michi Valeriano.

Those that have witnessed the previous episodes of the Great Globe Adventure know that the show combines game show fare, extreme entertainment and mobile interactivity and brings all these to a higher level. In the Globe adventures, three teams composed of barkadas, friends, workmates, or classmates with three members each compete to finish a series of mental and physical challenges of varying degrees of excitement. The challenges – which often catches the participants by surprise and puts their resourcefulness to the test – may involve negotiating tricky obstacle courses, finding hidden clues, performing dares or deciphering mind-numbing puzzles.

The sceneries for the Great Globe Adventure are different each episode. Already, the Globe adventure-seekers have explored Tagaytay, Subic, Tanay and Cebu. The adventure team who emerges as the winner in each episode gets to bring home P100,000 and qualifies for the ultimate challenge where the prize is P1 million in cash.

Globe Handyphone – and even Touch Mobile users – watching the show at home need not be left out from all the exciting adventure. The Great Globe Adventure features two interactive texting games: the Great Globe Adventure Pop Quiz and the Great Globe Adventure Trivia, which they can join using their cell phones to be able to win exciting prizes.

In the Great Globe Adventure Pop Quiz, three questions will pop up during the show and lucky home viewers who answer these questions get to win Nokia 7650s or Siemens S57s weekly. There are four (4) lucky winners picked every week via an electronic raffle in the Pop Quiz. All the said entries are qualified in the Grand Draw where three lucky winners can win Ford Sport Tract SUVs. To start playing the Pop Quiz, Globe Handyphone and Touch Mobile users should tune in to the weekly Sunday evening episodes of the Great Globe Adventure, watch out for the simple pop questions and send their entries to 2255.

In the Great Globe Adventure Trivia game, Globe Handyphone users can play the game anytime, anyday. Touch Mobile subscribers can also join and participate in the daily draws. Using an electronic raffle system, lucky daily participants who answer the trivia questions can win Nokia 3510s or Siemens C55s; lucky weekly participants can win cash prizes from P250,000, P500,000, P750,000 to P1 million. Text entries to the Globe Adventure Trivia game also qualify for the Grand Draw with the three Ford Sport Trac SUVs as prizes. To start playing the Great Globe Adventure Trivia game, all one has to do is just text GREAT to 2255 anytime, anyday. Virtual raffle points are then earned for every trivia question that is answered correctly.

When joining the Great Globe Adventure interactive texting contests, every text message sent to 2255 is charged P2 for Globe Handyphone plan subscribers, while Globe Handyphone pre-paid and Touch Mobile subscribers are charged P2.50.

Have the adventure of your life with the Great Globe Adventure as you get closer to P1 million in cash or a brand-new Ford Sport Trac SUV with every trivia or pop quiz answer that you text in. The promo is valid until Dec. 5 only.

GLOBE TELECOM

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GLOBE TELECOM PROVIDES HIGH-SPEED CONNECTION TO DESTINY CABLE

Leading telecommunications carrier Globe Telecom Inc. has been tapped by Destiny Cable Inc. (DCI) to provide its GlobeQuest Freeway managed international private leased (IPL) line for faster and more robust Internet connection. With the partnership, Globe becomes the exclusive provider of DCI for its international bandwidth to the Internet. DCI subscribed to a full DS3, or 45Mbps link. This would effectively increase DCI's capacity to almost double of its current bandwidth at almost the same cost. The GlobeQuest Freeway service delivers to DCI non-stop, high-performance Internet connectivity. The Freeway service is based on a truly redundant architecture using the company's enhanced IP+ATM backbone with STM-1 connections, diverse cable routes and multiple uplinks with tier 1 Internet backbones. Signing the contract are (from left) Jesus C. Romero, Globe assistant vice president for business communication, Gil B. Genio, Globe senior vice president for wireline service; James Uy, DCI COO, and Richard Rodriguez, DCI senior manager for marketing and media services.

McDonald's champions reading, family values

IN THE tradition of the "Karen-Lolo" commercial, McDonald's delivers another touching scenario, this time through its latest TV ad for its latest campaign for social responsibility.

Angel is an adorable 7-year-old girl who learned to read by practicing on her OCW father's letters. The scene is so familiar, so Filipino, yet endlessly heart-warming to the many families that have witnessed Angel's touching delivery of a letter that spoke of a father's longing for his family miles away from where he works.

In its latest project,, "Bright Minds Read," McDonald's embarked on a reading program for children aged six years old and above, an age when children's minds are starting to create, probe and imagine. It is an age when children's motor skills are developed enough for them to take on the challenge of schooling but are sadly distracted by the wonders of computer games and television, specifically cartoons.

"At an age when children have not yet been influenced by technology, we must lead them to discovering the wonder of the written word and how the mind creates images out of these words," explains Zonito Torevillas, PR and communications manager of McDonald's. "Children will learn better if they develop the skill of reading, and apply it to their academic and creative pursuits."

To complement this project, McDonald's unveils to the public a TV ad that is both heartwarming and enriching. The ad unfolds showing a lazy afternoon where family members usually engage in activities that relax them; kuya reads his favorite book, the hum of Lola's sewing machine complements the chimes stirred by the afternoon breeze. Angel's voice slowly catches the attention of both Kuya and Lola, as they locate both Nanay and Angel practicing reading.

Despite his physical absence, Tatay's presence is strongly felt throughout the commercial, as he expresses loving sentiments and inquires about his youngest child. "Si Angel ba marunong na magbasa (Has Angel learned how to read)?" Angel beams a winning smile at this question, happy that her father has thought of her, and proud of her accomplishment which she hopes to share with her father soon.

McDonald's shares with Filipino viewers an understanding of Filipino values, the essence of supporting each other and rejoicing together over accomplishments. The commercial shows the value of oneness in a family, the fulfillment togetherness delivers even when one of the loved ones is away.

With the TV ad, McDonald's hopes to inspire families to take on reading as a family activity to encourage children to pursue knowledge and learning. The commercial was created by DDB Philippines' team of Roger Pe (creative director) Eric Salazar (copywriter) Joey Castillo (art director) Tec Bondoc and Zita Alido (producers). Raul Jorolan of Scene Stealers Inc. was the director.

MCDONALD'S 'LOLO' SHINES AT CMMA

The commercial featuring the now-famous Karen and her Lolo was honored as the Best Branded TV Ad at the recent Catholic Mass Media Awards. The ad was a popular choice, having won its way into the hearts of Filipinos, with its masterful slice-of-life reflection of Filipino family life, set in the context of a visit to the neighborhood McDonald's. According to McDonald's executive vice president Kenneth Yang, the company wanted to share with audiences "just one of the heartwarming moments we encounter at McDonald's every day." Shown receiving the award are (from left) Mike Foster, Hemisphere Leo Burnett senior account management director, March Ventosa, HLB managing director, Kenneth Yang, Edsel Tolentino, HLB group creative director, and Zonito Torrevillas, McDonald's PR and communications manager.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY WITH SK MANILA

McDonald's World Children's Day on Nov 20 gets support from Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) a global fund-raising event organized by McDonald's and its network of more than 30,000 stores in over 121 countries. SK will be selling stickers to their constituents as one of the fund-raising activities. Proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House of Charities to build 'Bahay Bulilit,' Day Care Center at District 5, Manila. Shown are (standing clockwise from upper left) Zonito Torrevillas, McDonald's PR and communications manager, Nolan Tiongco, Dennis Reyes, Youth for Peace and Development Foundation, chair Cora Gernale, president Liga ng mga Barangay, District 5, Paolo Liwanage, Lyn Gernale, SK Manila (sitting clockwise from left) Melvin Mitra, chair, Youth for Peace and Development Foundation, Councilor Francesca 'Pipang' Gernale SK Federation, Manila, and Ronald McDonald.

RONALD LAUNCHES WCD

McDonald's managing director Joseph S. Lau (left) and executive vice president Kenneth S. Yang (right), take time out from their busy schedule to share light moments with representatives of the media and Ronald McDonald (center) in the recent Ronald Press Party held at McDonald's UN Avenue. The press party was the first of the series of activities promoting World Children's Day (WCD) on Nov 20. On that day, McDonald's 29,000 restaurants in 121 countries will host this unprecedented simultaneous event to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities and children's causes around the world. In the Philippines, McDonald's donates part of its profit from all Happy Meal sold, part of which will help build the 'Bahay Bulilit' Daycare Center Program.

MCDO OPENS BACOLOD'S 5TH RESTAURANT

McDonald's opens it latest restaurant in Bacolod, the fifth restaurant to serve piping hot burgers and fries to Bacolod residents. The store experienced heavy customer traffic during its opening day, thereby showing the locals' warm response to the world's number one quick service restaurant. Shown are the lively officers and crew showing off their famous smiles which keep customers coming back for more. McDonald's continues its strong commitment to quality. From its first store until today, McDonald's is recognized globally as a top advocate of quality, in products, services and training. McDonald's chain of restaurants adheres rigidly to high standards in all aspects of operations and productions. Producing only the finest products by following the recommended steps established by the McDonald's system worldwide. To deliver the best, McDonald's goes the extra mile for the quality of products, from ingredient selection to serving them hot and fresh.

'MATIBAY ANG PILIPINO' ESSAY CONTEST:

The youth of Muntinlupa speak of their pride in being Filipino

FILIPINOS, time and again, have displayed their indomitable spirit and resilience in the face of all kinds of misfortunes. Philippine history is replete with stories of Filipinos who have struggled with so much suffering through centuries of colonization, yet have managed to rise above them to give birth to a better life, if not for them, for their countrymen. Such is the Filipino spirit. Modern day Filipinos, too, possess that spirit. Yet the protracted economic and political upheavals somehow started eroding our national pride and self-confidence.

Insular Life, a leading Filipino life insurance company, responded by launching an advertising campaign called "Matibay ang Pilipino." The campaign was the company's way of bringing to fore the many positive traits of the Filipino. The campaign consisted of three ad layouts: a father coming home after a hard day's work to his little daughter's hug; a family steeped in prayer and devotion to their faith; and two teenage friends celebrating the bond of friendship. The ads effectively depict the sources of the Filipinos' strength. They tell the story each of us share, that our love for our families enable us to endure sacrifices and hardships, our faith in God make us resilient in times of difficulties, and our concern for our fellowmen, the *pagdadamayan*, unites and empowers us to change our destiny. All these point to the fact that indeed, "Matibay ang Pilipino."

To promote awareness of the "Matibay ang Pilipino" campaign among the younger generation, Insular Life held an On-the-Spot Essay Writing contest for public and private high schools in Muntinlupa. The contest, in coordination with the Department of Education's Muntinlupa Schools Division, was held at the Insular Life Corporate Centre in Alabang, Muntinlupa City July 12. It was divided into two categories: English and Pilipino. The contestants were asked to articulate their insights on the many aspects of the Filipino's strength.

The Board of Judges was composed of the following: Lualhati Bautista, writer, literary critic and Palanca Award judge; Dr. Paz Diaz, chair of the UP Graduate School of Journalism; Clarissa Batino, senior reporter of the Philippine Daily Inquirer; and Veronica Silva, editor of BusinessWorld Online and lecturer at the UP College of Mass Communication.

The winners were Andrea Erica A. Dagoco, first year student at the Muntinlupa Science High School, Dickerson O. Raymundo, 2nd year student of the Pedro Diaz High School Main, Namnama Laya S. Alegre, third year student of the Muntinlupa High School, and Catrina Joy Mendoza, fourth year student of the Muntinlupa Science High School, in the Pilipino category. In the English category, Lorenzo Piccio, first year student of De La Salle Santiago Zobel, Eloise Pena, second year student of the Maria Montessori Foundation, Micah Vanessa Sulit, third year student of St. Benedict College, and Ma. Czarra G. Platon, fourth year student of the Maria Montessori Foundation, were the winners.

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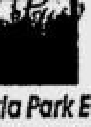

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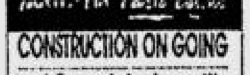

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Undev 0919-3279260

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

BLS P'que P11,000.00 pls. txt Marivic Abello 09178920212 or 09178300401

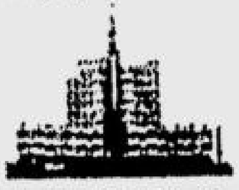
REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

QUEZON CITY

READY FOR OCCUPANCY



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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

PASIG

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BAGUIO

Bung 2br FF nr PMA 9125847

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

BRAND NEW STUDIO
very clean w/security guard impressive lobby w/ elevator P7.5T no association dues no rent increase for 2 years 1672 Dian St Mkti nr Buendia Call Rose
8439418 • 5369509

Palm Village Nr. Rockwell 3BR 21T/mo. 0917-3955738

APARTMENT

MAKATI

nr AYALA w/grge P12T 8708848

U/D BIG La Paz 10K T5343147

MANILA

5 Units Apt. Sta. Mesa U/D 7154506

SAMPALOC U/D nrUST 9122304

PARANAQUE

2BR MNWLK #5275941/5241365

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Female P3.5 9124428

•P5.5T 1BR Proj6 T-9267383

FOR LEASE

53 GOV PASCUAL WHSE 3610652

Warehse 4 Lease 2500sqm covered #49 2nd Ave Bicutan Tom 09175349405 Brokers Are Welcome

ROOM & BOARD

Mkt M/F P2.6 up/F/F/Prkg 8906331

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KALOOKAN 3610652

PRIME OFC CONCRETE BLDG AVENIDA NR RAON T7366516

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3677523/24

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

HOUSE & LOT

4BR 2TB 606 MOONWALK PARANAQUE CALL CORA 09178399870 2776050 BEL 9230380

MANILA

4Bldg. nrDLSU & 1Apt 8992148

QUEZON CITY

XVILLE2 Townhse 2-Sty 2BIG BR / TB maidsrm grge P15T/mo 8906294

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

BMW

BMW 316i 96 Model
680T Neg. • 0917-2429078

FORD

74 MUSTANG T:526-8048

HONDA

2002 HONDA HRV
3-mos Low Mileage Owner leaving Country 0916-3438491

HYUNDAI

2001 HYUNDAI ATOZ 238t very cute like echo can test drive anytime 7317984/6550

99KIA PREGIO 345T 7316550

Grace 199t, 97H-100 225t 98Starex 475t,'01Starex 690t all power Free LTO registra'n Financing OK! 7317984/6550

KIA

96BESTA 145T ASIS 7317984

MERCEDES

97MB100 340T 0919-2843426

MITSUBISHI

'96LncrEL 182T / '92Toyota CrlaXE 157T 09177872830

97 GSR 40KM 300T 7222572

NISSAN

95 Series3 FLoaded P200T T-7121650/09175297908

97SENTRA SS 278T 7317984

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L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

MARIAN CARS BRIDAL VANS CSTER 8957247/8969956

MB100 Hiace Pregio 2973807

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

TOYCO-SELF DRIVE OR W/ DRIVER CAR/VAN 8006595

VAN 4 RENT 8254058 8261045

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 6560140

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7226942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8968633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

PETS

DOG TRAINER 4528681

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Trains Dogs Scientifically
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WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8091574

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others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

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ROLEX
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5633742 0917-8473744

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503/3228

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 MARIEL

DIRECT HIRING CASHIERS/ SECRETARIES/OFC CLERK 18-35 col level/grad w/w/o exp 729-1787 Look for Mr. RJ

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

Hair & Malk-up Artist with exp. and Manicurista & Pedicurista 4356888 Argen

★Ofc Staff 18/45 w/w/o exp★ Start ASAP Call 9280996 Direct Hiring Lk Eugene

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 6304670 TRIX

HRD PERSNL 09173660641 FATIMA

HRD STAFF 09168563641 MS. JK

HRDSTF BRAVO 01915968368

LPNHS VACANT ITEM TCHI 50291

OFC JOB 09203844500 KIM

OFC PERSNL 09204114147 ALISON

OFC PERSONL 2781427 EROLYN

Ofc Staff 09164380041 Pauline

Ofc Staff 09198241338 Jude

OFC STAFF 9134470 LIEZL

OFC STAFF 9134470 CATHY

OFC STAFF 9134470 KAYE

OFC STAFF COLL GRAD /UGRAD 4370454 VINCENT

OFC Staff/HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

OFCSTF 09193632234 LOU

OFCSTF 5512388 MR. EVAN

OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

OFFICE PERSONNEL 09192535623 GLENDA

Wanted 3 PIANISTS to work in a Popular Restaurant Call#8315015 Look for Mr. Joey or Ms. Jenny

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

BAZAAR EXPORT BANK TOWER formerly URBAN BANK GrdFlr Aircon Nov. 27,28,29 & Dec. 11,12,13 Call 7137030•7137231 • 0917-4916315 • 09173518509

AUCTION SALE

Stargem Pawnshop 26-A E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., QC. We Sell All Expired Pledges on Dec. 2, 2002 at 9A.M.- J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

Unigem Pawnshop 3-E N. Ramirez St. Q.C. We Sell All Expired Pledges on Dec. 2, 2002 at 9A.M.- J. Enriquez Lic. Auctioneer

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Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
Legazpi City

CALL FOR APPLICANTS

A. **Position: SUC President IV (SG-30)**

B. **Minimum Qualifications:**
1. A Filipino citizen
2. Holder of an earned doctoral degree
3. Preferably not more than 60 years old at the time of the application
4. Has at least five (5) years of managerial and administrative experience
5. Morally upright
6. Has not been convicted by final judgment of any crime involving moral turpitude
7. Proven capability in resource generation and networking
8. Experience or involvement in community service

C. **In addition to these qualifications, interested persons must submit the following clearances, where applicable:**
1. Ombudsman
2. Civil Service Commission
3. National Bureau of Investigation
4. Regional Trial Court
5. Provincial/City Prosecutor's Office

[N.B. While the first two (2) clearances listed above are required only from applicants who are already in government service, all applicants both from government and the private sector shall submit the last three (3)]

D. **Application/Nomination should be accompanied by:**
1. Detailed Curriculum Vitaé and documentary evidences supportive of qualification
2. Statement of Vision, Mission and Thrusts for Bicol University
3. Medical Certificate that include results of drug tests
4. Result of Neuro-Psychiatric Examination in a sealed envelope administered by Dr. Annaliza del Rosario of Bicol Regional Training and Teaching Hospital (BRTTH), Legazpi City

Interested applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal application, comprehensive resumé and certified supporting documents not later than December 20, 2002 to CHED Commissioner Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina c/o Ms. Jennilyn M. Salubayba at 5th Floor, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City (Tel. No. (02) 638-4870) or to Mr. Renato G. Hingco, Board Secretary, Bicol University, Legazpi City (Tel. No. (052) 820-3741 or FAX No. (052) 481-1401).

AUCTION

LUBRICANT FILLING MACHINERY; BULKTAINERS; LATE MODEL FORKLIFTS; STEEL STORAGE TANKS; LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, ETC.

FOUR LOCATIONS IN OVER 250 LOTS INCLUDING: -

VIEW AT: Asian Terminals Inc.
STMI Compound Bo. Lawa, Calamba, Laguna

LUBRICANT FILLING MACHINERY - CRANDALL PA410PTX 4 Spout Filling Machine; CRANDAL 2 25MTS 2 Spout Filling Machine; (2) CRANDALL Filling Machines; (2) BROOKS Flow Meters; Asstd. COOPER, GOULDS, VIKING Pumps; ALFA LAVAL Sharpless Decanter; (2) BROOKS BRI Rotor Meters; Liquid Control Flow Meters; Asstd. Stainless Steel Conveyors, etc.
FORKLIFTS - TCM FD100028 10T Cap. (1999); TCM FD4527 4.5T Cap. (1996); (2) CATERPILLAR DP25 25T Cap. (1997/8); TOYOTA 6FFD25-2Z 5m Mast (1997); TOYOTA 6F25-2Z 5T Cap. 3m Mast (1995); TCM FD2525 2.5T Cap. (1997)
LABORATORY - KOHLER Water Bath; MEMMERT Laboratory Ovens; PERKIN ELMER Dehumidifiers; Analytical Balances; Centrifuges; SETA Foam Test; HEZROG Viscosity Bath; Penetrometer; HEZROG Flash Point Tester; METROHM Titrator; Infrared Spectrophotometer; Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer, Moisture Meters, etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - INGERSOLL RAND XF-125 Screw Type Compressor; INGERSOLL RAND Air Dryer, TRANE 40T Chiller Unit; Asstd. Petrol Pumps w/ Dispensers; Asstd. Bulktainers; Assld. Small Capacity Tanks;

VIEW AT: Punta Terminal, F. Manalo St., Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila
(3) 4000 Gal. Cap. Steel Storage Tank, 2000 Gal Cap. Steel Storage Tank; Steel Trestle; MITSUBISHI L-300 Aluminium Box Van; HONDA 250cc Motor Cycle; Asstd. Aluminium Ladders; Asstd. Office Furniture and Equipment, etc.

VIEW AT: Asian Terminal Inc. - ICD (Inland Clearance Depot)
Paciano, Calamba, Laguna
(73) Bulktainers

VIEW AT: Alpha Distribution System Inc.
Door Nos. 3 & 4 Menzi Compound, Pajo, Lapu-Lapu City, Mactan, Cebu
TOYOTA 2.0/2.5T Cap. Forklifts (to 1993) Forklift Tyres; Eye Baths; Fire Extinguishers, etc.

AUCTION DATE: THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2002 10:30AM SHARP
VIEWING DATE: TUESDAY 19TH & WEDNESDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2002
9:00AM - 5:00PM AND MORNING OF SALE DAY
AUCTION SITE: ASIAN TERMINALS INC.
STMI COMPOUND BO. LAWA, CALAMBA, LAGUNA
REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT: PHP30,000 (UPON REGISTRATION)

HENRY BUTCHER
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jolliland Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9607
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.

PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila
PRE-QUALIFICATION, BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The **PHILIPPINE POSTAL SAVINGS BANK, INC.** through its Pre-Qualification, Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) will accept applications for accreditation for the Bidding of the Bank's Security Services. The submission of bid documents will be on **November 27, 2002** and the Opening of Bids on **November 29, 2002**, at 2:00 p.m., respectively, at Philippine Postal Savings Bank Inc., 2nd Floor PostalBank Center, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 10% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check only. Accreditation fee of P500.00 (non-refundable) shall be collected from each applicant.

Interested bidders may secure bid documents including the Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Secretariat, 2nd Floor, PPSB Building, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities contained therein or accept the offer/ bid considered most advantageous to the bank.

For further information, please call the PBAC Secretariat at 5270057 or 5270142.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN A. REMODO**
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--Nov. 19, 20 & 21, 2002)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

EARN THRU PHONE 8965632

Established S'pore IT Co. looking for DEALERS in the Phils. Call 0920-7882269 for details.

PAMPANGA EXPANSION
U.S. Co. Needs 40 Women
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23 y.o. & up 02-5368322

Global Buss. • 0916-9368917

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Ten Franchisees only T5343147

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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www.earn-and-travel.com

TRAVEL N EARN FR HOME
8531008 09178901851 Rlin
earn-and-travel.com

XMAS LITES & TREES
Garlands / Gifts Tel 578-8772

PAMPANGA EXPANSION
U.S. Co. Needs 40 Women
PT/FT P15T-45T
23 y.o. & up 02-5368322

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Needs Women To Train 23-48yrs old w/Serious Exp. in Mktg. Mngt. Banking & Finance • Tel # 525-0234 •

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PRODUCT DESIGNERS WANTED!
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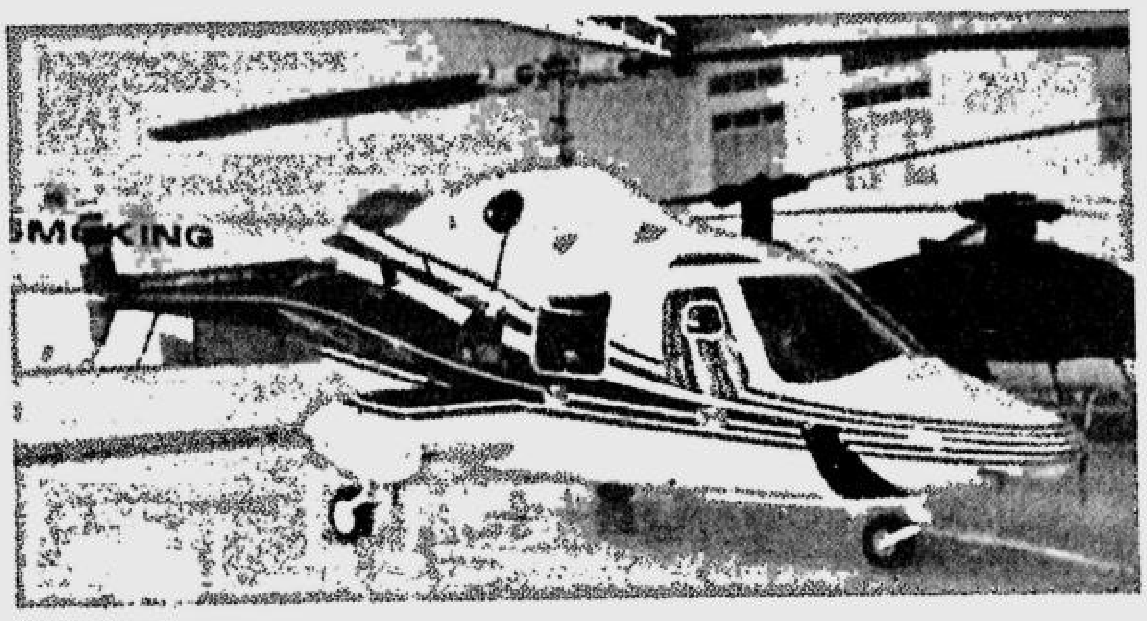
SEEKING
CREATIVE ARTISTS
FOR CHRISTMAS
& FESTIVE DECORATIVE
PRODUCTS
TRAVELLING MAY REQUIRED
EMAIL PORTFOLIO•EXP/SALARY
TO HR@TCAsia.com

BMHI
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

The **BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc. (BMHI)** shall conduct a second public bidding for the sale of a Bell 230 Helicopter at the BCDA Corporate Center, Gozar Street, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City.



DESCRIPTION

Model : **Bell 230 (8-seater)**
Year Manufactured : **1993**
Body Color : **April Green Metallic**
With ***Global Positioning System KLN 90B and 4 Tube Electronic Flight Information System with Autopilot***

List of other installed equipment is available upon written request addressed to:

The Head, Technical Working Committee
Special Bids and Awards Committee for the Sale/Disposal of Bell 230 Helicopter
BCDA Management and Holdings, Inc.
Gozar corner Lucas Streets
Villamor Airbase, Pasay City

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties can secure a copy of the Terms of Reference for a non-refundable nominal fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000) from the Office of the Head of the Technical Working Committee from November 20 to 28, 2002 (9:00 AM - 4:00 PM).
2. All interested parties are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to be held on December 3, 2002 at 9:00 AM, Unit 6B South Tower, Pacific Plaza Towers, Pacific Avenue, Bonifacio Global City.
3. BMHI reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, or to waive any defect or informality thereon or minor deviations, which do not affect the substance and validity of any or all of the proposals.

For more information, please call Roberto C. Atmosfera, Head, Technical Working Committee for the Sale/Disposal of the Bell 230 Helicopter, at Tel. Nos. **510-0426** and **551-3006** local **106**.

SBAC-BH CHAIRMAN

(PDI – Nov. 19 & 26, 2002)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of 22 units of Motorcycles
Samar Island Biodiversity Project (PHI/99/G31 and PHI/99/014)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Procurement of 22 units of motorcycles" for the Samar Island Biodiversity Project (SIBP).

SIBP is an eight-year project implemented by the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), with funding assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The project aims to protect a representative sample of the biodiversity of the Philippine archipelago by establishing the Samar Island National Park (SINP), covering an area of 347,000 hectares with surrounding buffer of 123,000 hectares.

The 22 units of motorcycles will be deployed in Samar Island, to be used by project personnel, as well as DENR forest rangers, PASU staff, PAWB and DENR Region VIII counterpart staff to travel around the area for critical project activities such as forest protection and enforcement, resource assessment and monitoring, and coordination work.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of PhP 500.00 from the following address :

Development Support Sevices Center
United Nations Development Programme
7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275 / 237
Fax No. (632) 816-4061 / 893-9598
E-mail Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting November 19, 2002 to November 22, 2002. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules for this activity.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ETHELIND B. CAPUNO**
Manager, DSSC

This Invitation to Bid shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until November 15, 2002.

(PDI--Nov. 19, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
4th JUDICIAL REGION
Branch 47
Palawan

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL,
Defendant,
x———————————x

CIVIL CASE NO. 3691
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
LOURDES M. MANALO,
Defendant,
x———————————x

CIVIL CASE NO. 3692
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
- *Versus* -
HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL
Namely: CHEMI M. SATO, ET. AL.,
Defendants,
x———————————x

CIVIL CASE NO. 3693
For: EMINENT DOMAIN

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

To: HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL, LOURDES M. MANALO, HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL namely: CHEMI M. SATO, JESSIE MIGUEL, EDEN MIGUEL and MICHIE MIGUEL.

WHEREAS, a verified Complaint was filed by the NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC), thru the Solicitor General, against the HEIRS OF CORNELIO MIGUEL, LOURDES M. MANALO, and HEIRS OF JOVENCIO MIGUEL namely: CHEMI M. SATO, JESSIE MIGUEL, EDEN MIGUEL and MICHIE MIGUEL, which is quoted as follows:

COMPLAINT

"Plaintiff National Power Corporation (NPC), by Counsel, respectfully avers that:

1. Plaintiff is a government-owned and controlled corporation created and existing by virtue of Republic Act No. 6395, as amended, with principal office address at NPC Office Building Complex cor. Quezon Avenue and Agham Road, East Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines, where it may be served with court processes;

2. A Civil Case No. 3691

Defendant Heirs of Cornelio Miguel are all of legal ages, Filipinos and are named hereunder together with their residence and postal/office address where they may be served with summons and other court processes or through their authorized representatives:

x x x

2-4. Lourdes M. Manalo - said to reside somewhere in the USA, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

x x x

2-6. Heirs of Angel Miguel namely;

x x x

2-6-10 Ma. Corinna M. Quicho - Zurich, Switzerland, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City.

2-7. Heirs of Jovencio Miguel namely;
2-7-1. Chiemi M. Sato
2-7-2. Jessie Miguel
2-7-3. Eden Miguel
2-7-4. Michie Miguel

Who are all said to reside at Kansas City, USA hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Their last known address is 156 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

2-8. Heirs of Rodolfo Miguel namely:
2-8-1. Sonny Miguel
2-8-2. Ruby M. Palattao

Who are all said to reside at San Francisco, California, USA, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Their last known address is 156 Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City;

2-9. And unknown others, to whom service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 16 of Rule 14;

2.B Civil Case No. 3692

Defendant Lourdes M Manalo is of legal age, Filipino and is said to reside somewhere in the United States, hence, service of summons by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14. Her last known address is Rizal Avenue, Puerto Princesa City.

2.C Civil Case No. 3693

Defendants, Heirs of Jovencio Miguel, are all said to be of legal ages, US citizens and are said to reside somwhere at Kansas City, USA, hence, substitute service by publication may be resorted to pursuant to Section 17 of Rule 14;

3. Plaintiff NPC was created for the purpose of undertaking the development of hydro-electric generation power production of electricity from any and all sources and particularly the construction, operation, and maintenance of power plants, auxiliary plants, dams, reservoirs, pipes, mains, transmission lines, power station and substations, and other works for the purpose of developing hydraulic power from any river, lake, creek, spring and waterfalls in the Philippines and supplying such power to the inhabitants thereof, and to carry out these purposes, plaintiff NPC is authorized by the law creating it, RA 6395 as amended, to enter private property in the lawful performance of its business purposes, provided that the owners of such private property shall be indemnified for any actual damage caused thereby, and to exercise the right of eminent domain;

4.A Civil Case No. 3691

Defendants - heirs of Cornelio Miguel are the legal owners of a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached Tax Declaration No. 061-8851 marked as Annex "A" and TCT-4253 copy of which is attached as Annex "B", more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR zonal value, per attached copy of BIR zonal valuation marked as Annex "C", to wit:

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
CORNELIO MIGUEL	4253	TD NO. 061-8851 LOT NO. 2-1 (LRC) Psd-146879	2,132 sq.m.	112.35 sq.m. more or less	P13,064.65	P31,978.4	Residential

4.B Civil Case No. 3692

Defendant is the legal owner of a parcel of land situated at Brgy. Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached Tax Declaration No. 061-8858 marked as Annex "A" and TCT No. T-4194 copy of which is attached as Annex "B", more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR zonal valuation, per attached copy of BIR zonal valuation marked as Annex "C", to wit:

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
LOURDES M. MANALO	4194	TD NO. 061-8858 OT NO. I-E (LRC) Psd-146879	6,136 sq.m.	26 04 sq.m. more or less	P426.07	P7,167.00	Residential

4.C Civil Case No. 3693

Defendants are the legal owners of a parcel of land situated at Brgy Tiniguiban, Puerto Princesa City, Province of Palawan as shown in the attached Tax Declaration marked as Annex "A", TCT No. T – 4208 copy of which is attached by Annex "B" and more particularly described below together with the affected area sought to be expropriated and the corresponding BIR Zonal Value, per attached copy of BIR Zonal Valuation marked as Annex "C", to wit;

OWNER	TITLE NO.	TAX DEC NO./ LOT NO.	TOTAL AREA	AREA AFF'D IN SQ.M	ASSESSED VALUE OF AREA AFFECTED	VALUE BASED ON BIR ZONAL VALUATION	CLASSIFICATION OF LAND
Heirs of Jovencio Miguel	4208	TD No. 01-8856 Lot No I-H-Psd-146789	2,729	234.4 2 sq.m. more or or less	P7,032.60	P64,465.50	Residential

5. To enable the plaintiff to construct and maintain its 13.8 kv Puerto Princesa Diesel Power Plant (PPDPP)-Irawan Substation by-pass Line, a project for public purpose, it is both necessary and urgent for plaintiff to acquire a portion of the above parcel of land consisting of a total area of 234.42 sq.m., more or less, shown and shaded in the attached sketch plan marked as Annex "D" and made integral part hereof;

6. The above-described parcel of land sought to be expropriated has not been applied to nore expropriated for any public use and is selected by plaintiff in a manner compatible with the greatest public good and the least private injury;

7. Plaintiff has attempted to negotiate with the defendants for the acquisition of a portion of the above parcel of land for the public purpose as above-stated at a price prescribed by law, but failed to reach an agreement with them for they are said to reside at an unknown place at Kansas City, USA·

8. Pursuant to Section 2 of Rule 67 of the 1997 Rules on Civil Procedure, upon the filing in the proper court of the complaint in eminent domain proceeding or at any time thereafter, and after due notice to the defendants, plaintiff shall have the right to take or enter upon the possession of the real properties involved if it deposits with the authorized government depository an amount equivalent to the assessed value of the property for purposes of taxation to be held by said bank subject to the orders of the court while pursuant to RA 8974, Section 4 (a), upon the filing of the complaint, and after due notice to the defendant, the implementing agency shall immediately pay the owner of the property the amount equivalent to the sum of (1) one hundred percent (100%) of the value of the property based on the current relevant zonal valuation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); and (2) the value of the improvements and/or structures as determined under Section 7 hereof, x x x Upon compliance with the guidelines above mentioned, the court shall immediately issue to the implementing agency an order to take possession of the property and start the implementation of the project;

9. Considering that the BIR zonal Valuation is more favorable to the landowner, plaintiff is willing to deposit that amount in an authorized government depository bank for purposes of the issuance of the corresponding writ of possession, subject to the orders and final disposition of the Court in accordance with Section 2, Rule 67 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, Section 4 of RA 8974 and in line with the Decision of the Supreme Court in the case of National Power Corporation vs. Hon. Enrique T. Jocson, et. Al.; G.R. Nos. 94193-99, February 25, 1992.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, plaintiff most respectfully prays of this Honorable Court that:

1.A. Civil Case No. 3691

In the event that defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of **112.35 sq.m.** more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 KV PPDPP – Irawan Substation by-pass Line on the said property.

1.B Civil Case No. 3692

In the event that the defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of **26.04** sq.m. more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 kV PPDPP – Irawan Substation by-pass Line on the said property;

1.C. Civil Case No. 3693

In the event that defendant refuse to allow plaintiff to enter and undertake the construction of its project in spite of the deposit made and the Notice to Take Possession pursuant to Section 2 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure and Section 4 of RA 8974 this Honorable Court issue an Order or Writ of Possession authorizing plaintiff to enter and take possession and control and acquire the portion of the property consisting of **234.42 sq.m.** more or less, described in paragraphs 4 and 5 hereof, together with the improvements, sought to be expropriated with the power and authority to demolish all improvements existing thereof and to commence and undertake the construction of the 13.8 kV PPDPP – Iran Substation by-pass Line on the said property;

2. Should the defendants fail to submit an answer within the time specified in the summons, or when the defendants fail to defend as required by the Rules of Court, to forthwith issue an Order of Expropriation condemning the property together with its improvements sought to be expropriated, for public use or purpose described in the Complaint;

3. Not more than three (3) Commissioners be appointed by the Court to hear the parties, view the premises, assess the damage and report to the court the just compensation to be paid to defendants pursuant to Rule 67;

4. After the determination of the just compensation, to authorize the payment thereof by plaintiff to defendants after deducting the sums due to the Government for unpaid real estate taxes and other imposts;

5. Plaintiff be adjudged by this Honorable Court to have a lawful right to enter, take possession and acquire the portion of the property together with the improvements sought to be expropriated for the purpose stated, free from any and all liens and encumbrances, as stated in the Complaint.

Plaintiff prays for such other and further reliefs as are deemed just and equitable under the premises.

Quezon City for Puerto Princesa City, August 21, 2002.

FOR THE SOLICITOR GENERAL:
Sgd. RAINIER V. BUTALID
VP-General Counsel
IBP No. 556090, 2/18/02-Masbate
PTR No. 31289331, 2/18/02, Q.C

Sgd. JOSEPH F.M. DECHAVEZ
Sr. Department Manager
Land & Land Rights Management Group
Special Attorney, OSG
IBP No. 556343, 2/20/02, Sorsogon
PTR No. 31297682, 2/20/02, Quezon City

Sgd. LUIS MANUEL U. BUGAYONG
Department Manager
Real Estate Documentation Department
Land & Land Rights Management Group
Special Attorney, OSG
IBP No. 557372, 3/6/02, Pangasinan
PTR No. 31751998, 3/6/02, Quezon City

Sgd. JEAN LOU N. AGUILAR
Corporate Attorney B
Special Attorney-OSG
IBP No. 502940, 12/26/01 Palawan
PTR No. 4399829, 4/02/02 Manila

Counsel for Plaintiff
National Power Corporation
Cor. Agham Road and Quezon Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
PUERTO PRINCESA CITY) S.S.

I, MR. ROMUALDO A. CONSIGNA, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, hereby depose and say that:

1. I am the Project Manager of Palawan Backbone Transmission Project of the National Power Corporation plaintiff in this case;

2. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing Complaint and have read and understood all the allegations contained therein, and the same is true and correct of my knowledge;

3. I certify under oath that-

a) the plaintiff has not commenced any other action or proceeding which is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other Tribunal or agency;

b) to the best of my knowledge, no such action or proceeding is pending in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or agency;

4. I likewise undertake that-

a) If there is any other action or proceeding which is either pending or may have been terminated, I will state the status thereof;

b) If I should thereafter learn that a similar action or proceeding has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, or any other tribunal or Agency, I will undertake to report the fact within five (5) days therefrom to the court of agency wherein the original pleading and sworn certification contemplated in Administrative Circular No 04-94 dated February 8, 1994.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 21st day of August 2002, in Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.

Sgd. ROMUALDO A. CONSIGNA
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 21st day of August 2002, affiant exhibited to me his Community Tax Certificate No. 01854722 issued at Manila on February 27, 2002.

Sgd. JEAN LOU N. AGUILAR
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
IBP No. 502940, 12/26/01, Palawan
PTR No. 4399829, 04/02/02, PPC

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Book No. 01
Series of 2002.

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2002, Summons were issued by the Court to the above-mentioned defendants, which Sheriff Paul Gabayan tried to serve to all the defendants at the given addresses.

WHEREAS, Plaintiff through Counsel filed a motion asking for leave of Court to serve summons upon the defendants whose whereabouts are unknown, by way of publication in the newspaper pursuant to Sections 16 and 17 of Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Court.

WHEREAS, the Court granted said motion in its Order dated October 18, 2002, which reads as follows.

"ORDER"

"Pursuant to Sec. 17 of Rule 14 of the Rules of Court the Ex-Parte Motion to Service Summons by Publication in the above-captioned cases is hereby granted. Thus, AS PRAYED FOR leave of Court is hereby granted for service of summons by publication to the following named persons who are non-residents and cannot be found in the Philippines:

1) Heirs of Cornelio Miguel
  1.1 Lourdes Miguel Manila
  1.2 Ma. Corinna Miguel-Quicho
  1.3 Chiemi Miguel-Sato
  1.4 Jessie Miguel
  1.5 Eden Miguel
  1.6 Michie Miguel
  1.7 Sonny Miguel
  1.8 Ruby Miguel-Palattao
2. Heirs of Jovencio Miguel
  2.1 Chiemi Miguel-Sato - Kansas City, USA
  2.2 Jessie Miguel - -do-
  2.3 Eden Miguel - -do-
  2.4 Michie Miguel - -do-
3. Lourdes Miguel Manalo

Likewise, considering that the plaintiff is not totally familiar with all the descendants of Cornelio Miguel, service to those others who may claim to be the heirs of said persons is granted pursuant to Sec. 16 of Rule 14, Rules of Court.

SO ORDERED"

NOW, THEREFORE, you Defendants: Heirs of Cornelio Miguel, Lourdes Miguel Manalo, Ma. Corinna Miguel-Quicho, Chiemi Miguel-Sato, Jessie Miguel, Eden Miguel, Michie Miguel, Sonny Miguel, Ruby Miguel-Palattao, and all others who may claim to be the heirs of said persons, are hereby required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court of Palawan, 4th Judicial Region, Branch 47, Puerto Princesa City answers or responsive pleadings to the Complaint of the Plaintiff, within sixty (60) days from the date of the last portion hereof, or after notice, whichever comes first and to furnish copies of your answers to the Plaintiff through the Solicitor General with address c/o Atty. Jean Lou N. Aguilar, Special Attorney, National Power Corporation (NPC), Palawan Backbone Transmission Project, 108 Manalo St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. If you fail to file your answer to the Complaint within the designated time herein, plaintiff shall take judgement against you and shall demand from the Court the relief prayed for in the Complaint, after hearing

WITNESS, the Hon. Perfecto E. Pe, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 28th day of October 2002.
Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

NORFERIO B. NONO
Clerk of Court

(PDI–Nov 12, 19 & 26, 2002)

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❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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(1968 - 1975)

*Peacefully joined our Creator on November 16, 2002
at the age of 92.*

His beloved wife **Natividad T. Ceña**; children **Napoleon & Nellie, Maria Luisa, Joseph** (†), **Ephraim & Ma. Corazon**; grandchildren **Cesare Napoleoni, Desiree, Dulcinea, Eloisa, Audree, Adrienne, Luisa Mae**; brother **Clemente**; sisters **Gertrudes** and **Sofia**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Ilagan Memorial Homes. Interment is on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Family Mausoleum, Cabanatuan City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Sto. Niño Church, Capitan Pepe Subdivision, Cabanatuan City.

AMBASSADOR EMILIO D. BEJASA

Died peacefully at the age of 88 on 8 November 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

His beloved wife Rosie (†) his children Renato & Marina, Emil (†) & Eileen, Bes & Techie, Lei & Ed Reyes, Dee, Noel and Cindy, Mita & Rene Ocampo, Gina & Jose Luis Moreno, Jo Carlo (Boying), Maribelle & Orly Dyoco, Zita & Albert de Vivo and Joy; grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and nephews request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City as of 18 & 19 November (Monday & Tuesday).

Interment will take place at the Bauan Cemetery on Wednesday morning, 20 November 2002.

> **Death is not extinguishing the light;
> it is putting out the lamp
> because the dawn has come.**
> **- Rubindranath Tagore**
> Poet, Philosopher, Nobel Laureate

NATALIA "NASH" VILLARREAL WUNDERLICH

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 10, 2002 in Reno, Nevada.

Her bereaved husband **Dirk**; brothers and sisters **Jess "Pocholo"** and **Nena, Tito** (†), **Mitos** (†) **Ines, Manolet** (†), **Jaime "Jay", Juan Miguel** (†), **Maiti & Ted Tolman**, and **Mercy**; in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews requests your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at Christ the King Parish Chapel, Greenmeadows Avenue, White Plains, Quezon City on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.

"Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." Matthew 10:39

SALVADOR G. BADIOLA, SR.

(Former ATENEO DE MANILA Grade School Registrar)

Peacefully joined our Lord on 15 November at the age of 77.

His loving wife **ROR**; children **BEDA & LINDA, MARIE & MANNY, JUN & TESS, TET & SUSAN, EHLOI & RENE, FRANZ & LUDWIG, OLIVE & ED, EVELYN & MIKE, ELMER & DEBBIE**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers & sister, in-laws, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be transferred to the Ateneo Grade School Chapel on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 21, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

MA. DIANA OCHOA-CAPITO

Died in the Grace of our Lord on November 12, 2002 at the age of 30.

Parents Brgy. Capt. Manny and Dolly Ochoa; husband Rommel; children RK and Dominic; sister Donna and brothers Emerson and JR.

Her remains lie at the family residence in Kasoy St., Verdant Acres Subd., Las Piñas City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 at Golden Haven, Las Piñas after the 1:00 p.m. Holy Mass.

> *"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* *John 14:6*

MAXIMO DE LEON MARTIN, SR.

*Passed away in the peace of the Lord
on November 13, 2002 at the age of 78.*

He is survived by his loving wife **Rosa Manalo**; devoted children **Candido, Maximo Jr., Rosita, Rolanda, Gil, Carlos, Zenaida, Luz** and their spouses; grandchildren and great grandchildren; brothers, sisters, cousins and other relatives.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Immediately after the Mass of the Resurrection at 7:00 a.m., interment will take place at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on Wednesday, November 20, 2002.

Ma. Socorro C. Macapagal-Santos

*Peacefully joined our Creator
on Nov. 16, 2002 at the age of 43.*

Her beloved son, **Anton Joshua**, with her loved ones, **Andrew & Boy**, together with her loving family, **Papang, Mamang, Susie, Sally & Paul, Jun & Jorja, John & Pam**, niece & nephews, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Premiere I, Guadalupe, Makati.

The schedule of Cremation
will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

Vicente T. Pizarro

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 12, 2002.

His loving wife **Constancia**; children, children-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains will be flown in from New York, USA on November 21, 2002 and will lie in state in Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur.

Interment will be announced later.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PROCUREMENT SERVICE (PS)** invites G-EPS registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **LEASE OF DATA WAREHOUSE SERVER AND LEASE OF WAREHOUSE STORAGE AND LEASE OF AUTOMATED TAPE LIBRARY** for the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The approved budget for this contract is P 64,610,000.00.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference that will be held on December 4, 2002, 9:00 a.m. at the PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, PS Complex, Cristobal St., Paco, Manila.

The bid documents shall be available at the **PS-PURCHASING DIVISION** starting November 19, 2002 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 7,000.00).

The bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the IABAC Secretariat at the above mentioned address. Deadline for submission and opening of bids shall be on December 19, 2002 at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, please call the **PS-Purchasing Division** at telephone nos. 563-94-02 or 563-93-74.

PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--November 19 & 26, 2002)

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National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Power Corporation (NPC) of the Republic of the Philippines invites all interested contractors to register for eligibility and to bid for the Rehabilitation of NPC Building No. 2, Roof Deck located at NPC Office Building Complex, Diliman, Quezon City.

The complete sets of eligibility screening documents are available for issuance at the Office of the Corporate Fuel Management Department (CFMD) and Secretariat Contracts Award Committee, Bldg., 2 Ground Floor, NPC-OBC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel/Fax No. 9245311, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of eight hundred pesos (P800.00) and presentation of Letter of Intent.

The bidding requirements and schedule of activities are as follows:

Contract Number	PRBD Lr-0337
Scope of Work:	Construction of Open-sided Hall; Re-waterproofing of roof deck and Repair of 3rd floor ceiling.
Approved Budget for Contract	P8,340,072.00
Category and Classification of Contractors' License	Category B: General Building/Engineering Medium A: Building and Industrial Plants
Issuance of Eligibility Requirements/Documents	November 18, 2002
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Requirements/ Documents	December 2, 2002
Issuance of Tender Documents	December 17, 2002
Pre-bid Conference	December 20, 2002
Submission of Bids and Bid Opening	January 03, 2003

Registered prospective bidders shall be evaluated as to eligibility based on a non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria prescribed in the eligibility guidelines.

Bid documents shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The Contracts Award Committee (CAC), NPC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidder(s) or any obligation to inform the affected bidder(s) of the ground(s) for NPC's action.

(Sgd.) SILVANO C. ZANORIA
OIC-Senior Vice President and
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee
NPC-Residual

(PDI – Nov. 19 & 26, 2002)

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

BUSINESS

Multitel amassed ₱25B

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MULTITEL group may have amassed as much as P20 billion to P25 billion in its "Ponzi" racket, according to insiders now cooperating with securities regulators.

These new figures, provided by former sales agents of Multinational Telecom Investors Corp.. and its subsidiaries, were more than double the earlier estimates of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The commission shut down Multitel's operations after it learned that Multitel had been running a Ponzi scam.

A Ponzi scheme is a pyramid-type racket that works on the "rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul" principle, as money from new investors are used to pay off earlier investors until the whole scheme collapses.

The scam was named after Carlo "Charles" Ponzi, an Italian immigrant who, in 1920, raked in an estimated $15 million in eight months by persuading tens of thousands of investors that he found a way to profit by speculating in international postal reply coupons.

Government regulators and law enforcers are now looking for Multitel's founder, Rosario Baladjay, a former clerk at Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc.'s cooperative.

A ranking securities regulator said according to the SEC's informants, the Multitel group—including Multitel International Holdings Inc., Everflow Group of Companies, One-Heart Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc., Star Enterprise Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. and other so-called conduits—had around 600 "counselors" managing hundreds of millions of pesos.

An SEC official said he doubted whether Multitel's investors could recover their money, saying Multitel had already missed an earlier promise to pay its investors on Nov. 12.

Baladjay has sent letters telling Multitel's investors that they will now get their money before Dec. 25.

She said the waiting period for all the unclaimed interest and termination was more or less three to six months because of "heavy withdrawal."

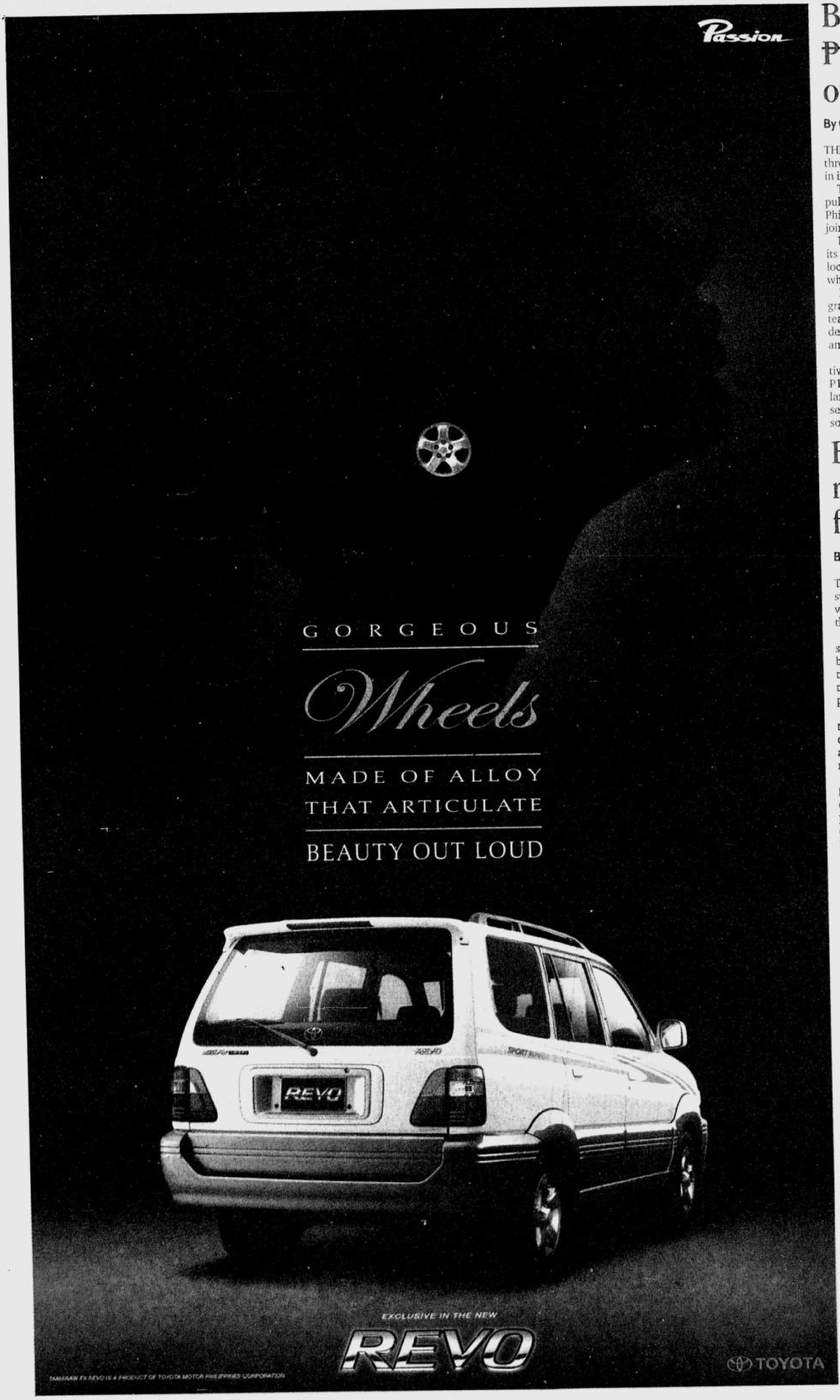
Banks' bad loans ratio down slightly in Sept.

THE BAD loans ratio of commercial banks fell to 16.5 percent in September, down from 17.58 percent in August, as big lenders took out P30 billion worth of loans written off in line with the central bank's move to ease the definition of non-performing loans.

Banking sources, however, said the non-performing loans ratio in September was still "very tentative" as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was still verifying some numbers.

A BSP official said the numbers had to be reviewed to check whether the loans that banks claimed to have written off and excluded carried with them a 100-percent provisioning.

The central bank, said a source, would report two NPL ratios starting this month; one based on the original computation and the other based on the policy approved last September. *Clarissa S. Batino*



BOI approves ₱400M worth of new projects

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has approved three new projects worth nearly P400 million in investments.

The biggest of the three is the P203-million pulp production project of Pulp Specialties Philippines Inc., an 85-15 Filipino-Malaysian joint venture.

PSPI will use abaca as its raw material, but its new technology also allows it to use other local natural fibers, such as kenaf and jute, which abound in Bicol and Eastern Visayas.

PSPI plans to produce commercial pulp grades for manufacturers of currency papers, tea bags, meat casings, electrolytic condensers, capacitor papers, cigarette papers and industrial filter papers.

The BOI also granted non-pioneer incentives to BSJ Fishing and Trading Inc.'s P147.7-million expansion of its medium- to large-scale fishing operations using the purse seining method and Astra (Philippines) Inc.'s software design and development project.

BIR to issue new rules on Peza firms' tax perks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is set to issue a new rule preventing companies supervised by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority from abusing their tax incentives.

Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison said the BIR was drafting an order that would bar locators of Peza, as well as those from three other economic zones, from applying the 5-percent preferential income tax even on profits obtained from unrelated businesses.

Peza, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the Cagayan and Zamboanga economic zones offer their locators the incentive of paying only a 5-percent gross income tax, while all businesses pay a 32-percent tax on net income.

"The regulation would prohibit companies from including the profits from their unrelated business in the coverage of the 5-percent preferential tax. Unrelated business could include leasing, for instance, of a housing meant for employees but were leased out to a third party," Gison said.

BCDA defers action on SM's Clark mall

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority has ordered Clark Development Corp. to defer any action on the proposed construction of an SM shopping mall at the entrance of the Clark Special Economic Zone.

In a resolution, the BCDA board instructed the CDC board to refrain from deciding or acting on SM's proposal without its prior approval.

The BCDA invoked its oversight functions over CDC and the 28,000-hectare Clark property under Proclamation No. 163.

The decree gave the BCDA jurisdiction in determining the use and disposition of Clark, a former US military base.

The BCDA board recommended that before finalizing its decision on the project, it would have to tap a traffic expert to study what measures needed to be taken to ease traffic along the Balibago-Mabalacat junction of MacArthur Highway.

The BCDA said traffic in the area would have an impact on the development of the Angeles-Mabalacat zones and the Subic-Clark "growth corridor."

The CDC management has endorsed SM's P500-million shopping mall to the CDC board, but its approval has been deferred due to opposition from the BCDA and the local community that will be affected by it. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

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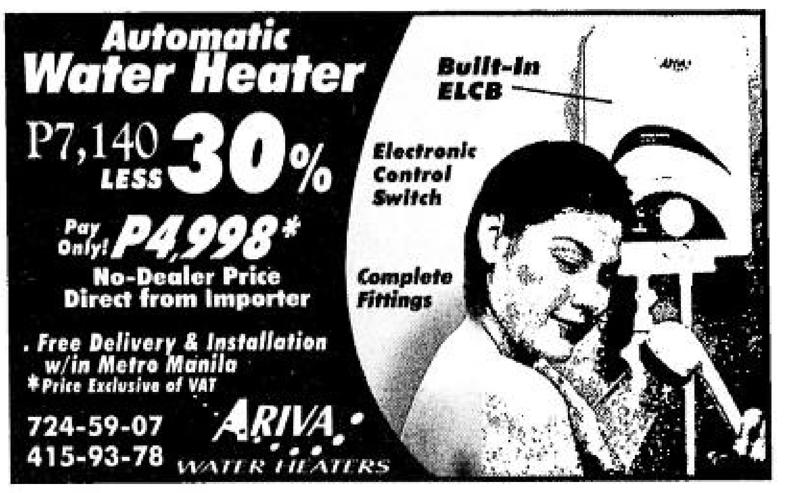
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Secrets of beauty and well-being

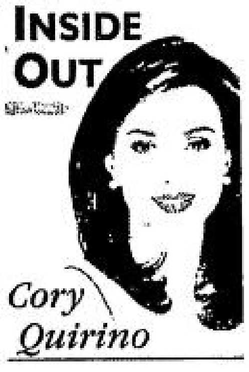
Part II

ONE'S inner glow is the essence of true beauty.

Indeed, when we glow, we look beautiful—a reflection of one's state of wellness. According to Dr. Martha Tilaar, founder and president of one of Indonesia's foremost natural cosmetic companies, all her skin and hair care products are complemented by JAMU herbal tonics, exercise, nutritious food, fasting and acts of charity and kindness, which take care of the "inside."

I had the honor of meeting the famous Mrs. Tilaar in Jakarta. The meeting took place at her spa and beauty headquarters.

INSIDE OUT



Cory Quirino

Three hours with this regal lady of unassuming charm reaffirmed what I have always known. In order for femininity to blossom in a woman, she must merge two worlds—heaven and earth.

There is heaven in a heart that focuses on joy and peace. And there are the best elements in this world for harnessing healing and purifying ingredients that enhance one's beauty.

Surround yourself with the four elements of the universe: earth, water, fire and air.

Earth. A touch of Bali with flowers like hibiscus, bougainvillea or jasmine floating in a stone or terracotta bowl does wonders to brighten up any room.

Water. The sound of running water can soothe frayed nerves and relax a tired body. Make your own or purchase a mini water dish garden. Or when bathing, listen to the sound of the water as it washes your tiredness away.

> There's energy from the sun, moon, earth, air and water. All one has to do is tap these sources of energy

Air. Keep a window open to allow fresh air to filter into your room. Cross ventilation will not only cleanse the indoor air but will symbolically flow into your home soft winds of change.

Fire. Candle light is the best for romance and softens the mood of a place. Red or pink candles for passion and love, white or blue for healing or green for prosperity. Pick your color and make a wish.

Harnessing energy

What is called life breath is the chi in tai-chi, qi in qi-gong, ki in aikido. In pranic healing, it is prana or life energy.

It has often been said that conscious breathing is an inspiration from the gods. And if one were to practice the art of meditation through conscious breathing, then surely inspiration will flow freely. There is energy from the sun, earth, air, water and moon. All one has to do is tap these sources of energy.

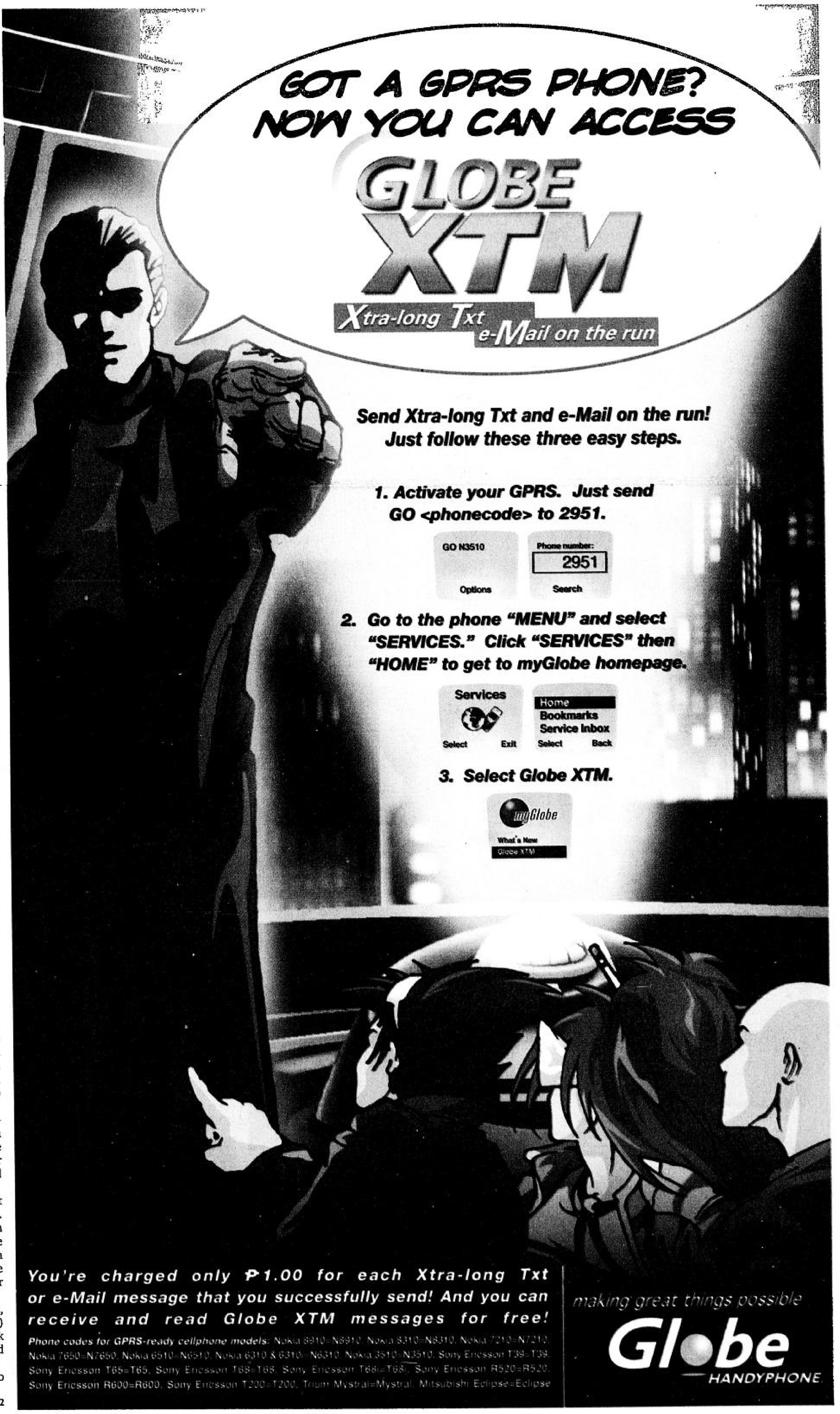
Walk barefoot. Remove your shoes or slippers and walk on the grass or along the beach shore. For 15 minutes, allow your feet to be energized by the earth. Your feet's chakra (or energy center) will absorb the earth force and recharge you.

Sit beside a tree. Pick the biggest, shadiest tree you can find in a park, forest or garden. Be quiet and close your eyes as you lean on the tree. Remain calm for 15 minutes. A tree has the power to absorb negative energy from sadness to illness. But make sure you alternate trees if you plan to make this a daily habit (or your chosen tree will wither away and die).

Absorb the sun's energy. For 10 minutes, allow the morning sun's rays (before 7 a.m.) to warm you (Make sure you apply a sun block SPF-30.). This energy booster should jumpstart your day and uplift your mood.

Basking in the moonlight is another way to

SECRETS/ p.C2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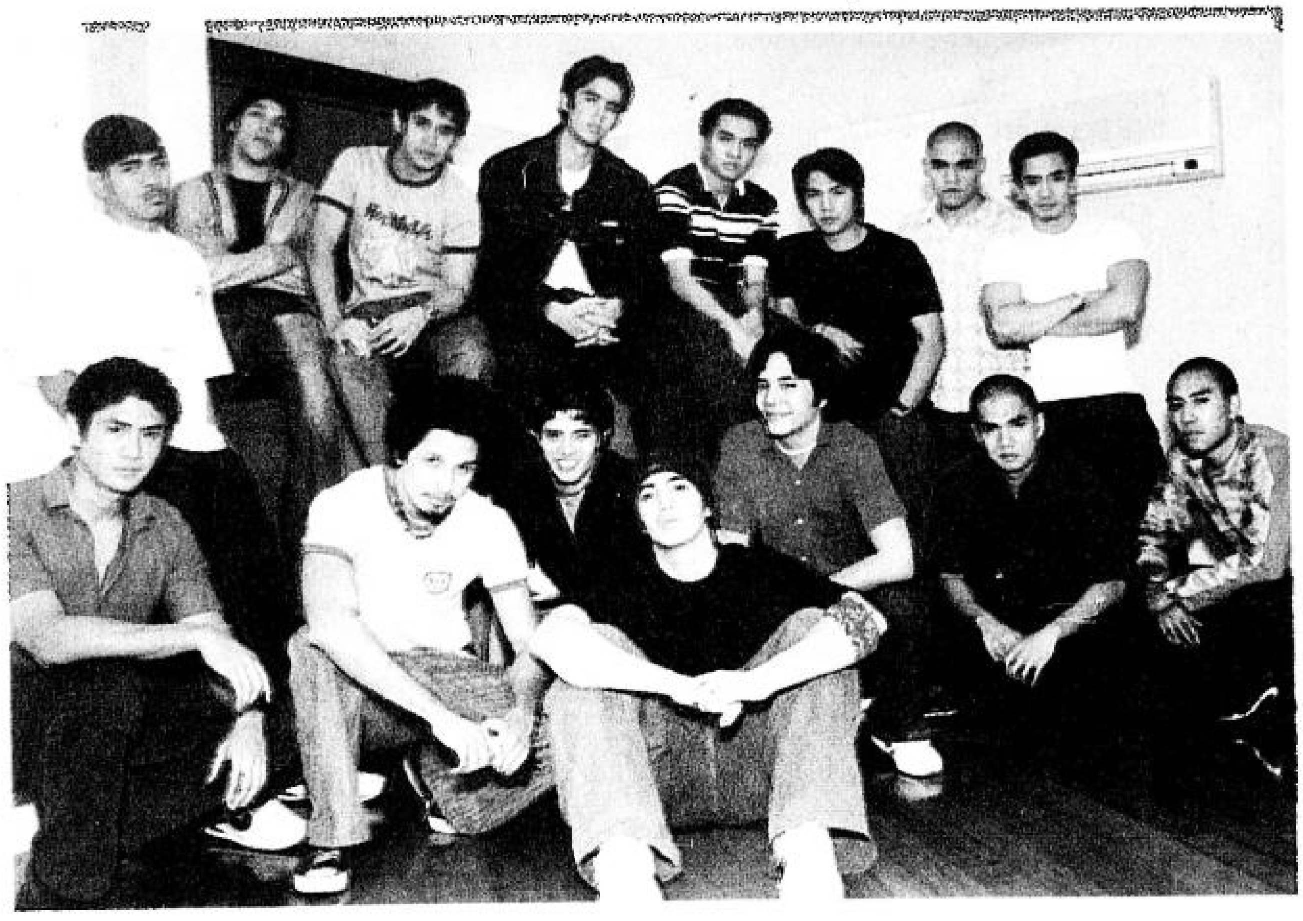
making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE

Sportswear company names finalists for its image model tilt



FUBU (For Us By Us), the $400-million sportswear empire that started the hype for "streetwear," has come a long way since its humble beginnings in Queens, New York, back in the early '90s. The brand has now conquered the globe with thousands of Fubu concept stores worldwide. Its unique wave of fashion has reached the Philippines and has created a strong following among young Filipino men. Epitomizing the look and attitude of the brand, Fubu USA signed up male model Tyson Beckford as the image model for its latest collection. Its popularity prompted Fubu Philippines to conduct its own image model search to find the Filipino male who epitomizes the Fubu look and attitude and will represent the brand in all its marketing events and publicity.

In pursuit of Beckford's local counterpart, the Fubu crew went around the top school campuses in the metro looking for the person with that unique Fubu personality. The preliminary screenings, which were conducted last month, produced the following finalists: Rovane Derecho (Lyceum of the Philippines), Gino de Guia (DLSU-College of St. Benilde), Ralph Rempillo (University of the Philippines), Ryan Lumbera (De La Salle University), Niño Ong (University of Asia and the Pacific), Jordan Merioles (National Teachers' College), Matt Garcia (University of Sto. Tomas), Tristan Alanis (Lyceum of the Philippines), Carlo Dionisio (University of Asia and the Pacific), Jay Paragas (DLSU-Health and Science Campus), Mark Nikolas Martin (DLSU-College of St. Benilde), Deone Dasallas (DLSU-College of St. Benilde), Andrew Gomez (University of Asia and the Pacific), Rene Teotico (DLSU-College of St. Benilde) and Jason Grigg (Ateneo de Manila University).

Finals night will be held at the Culture Club in Libis to mark Fubu Philippines' first anniversary on Nov. 29. The winner will receive P10,000 in cash plus a whole year's supply of Fubu gear and a weekend stay for two at Fraser Place Serviced Residences, a co-sponsor of the event. Aside from the opportunity of launching a modeling career, the winner will also be a VIP in all Fubu parties and events, and will have the distinction of being the country's first Fubu image model.

Secrets of beauty and well-being

From page C1

harness feminine energy.

Release the goddess in you. In ancient times, the moon, sister of the sun, has fondly been called mother and reverently referred to as goddess. During a full moon, it is said that all who bathe in her radiance will reaffirm their femininity. A great believer in the unity of all creation, I had the privilege of meeting 200 women during a Dove moment under a full moon in October at the Kalikasan Gardens at The Fort. We acknowledged the "goddess within" through the following ritual.

1. Wear white.
2. Walk under the full moon.
3. Stand directly under the moonlight with open palms facing upwards towards the sky. (The chakras in the center of your palms will absorb the moon energy.)
4. Breathe slowly, calmly.
5. Make a wish.
6. Acknowledge, recognize and claim the goddess of goodness and love that resides in your heart by declaring "I am a goddess."
7. Smile. Be happy.

Moonlight fair

Here's a skin preparation and monthly ritual you can do at home, a take-off from the popular Javanese lulur.

Ingredients:

Small bowl—your favorite body oil (olive, almond or virgin coconut)
5 tablespoons rice powder (you can make your own until it is finely ground)
2 teaspoons turmeric powder
1 teaspoon sandalwood (optional)
3 drops jasmine oil
2 cups natural yogurt
splash of water

Procedures:

1. Massage your body with oil.
2. Mix the powders with water and rub on your body, allow to dry.
3. Rinse under a shower. Pat dry.
4. Splatter your body with yogurt. Leave on your skin for 5-7 minutes.
5. Soak in a warm bath or rinse with warm water.

All women are united by a common bond—a heart that has the power to love and in loving, be loved, the power to heal and in healing, be healed, the power to serve and in serving, lead.

Love and light!

"Forever Young," my guide to beauty and wellness, is now a best-selling book. Thanks to you, my readers!

Exfoliation makes skin glow

EXFOLIATION is a beauty ritual that's been around since the time of Cleopatra. For centuries, it has been the fastest route to radiant skin.

Exfoliation frees up blocked pores and skin blockages, peps up and smoothes skin tone and helps tone down even the most stubborn pimples. Sensational-looking skin has never been easier to attain—all in a few minutes each day.

To learn more about the single, most important part of skincare, Extraderm's team of skincare experts shares the following information on exfoliation.

- Exfoliation buffs off dead skin cells that, if left, settle as a thick layer and are impenetrable to moisture.
- Exfoliation gives your skin that fresh glow, making it softer and more luminous. Removing the barrier made of dead cells allows your skin to absorb your moisturizer and creams more efficiently.
- Any dead cells that linger on your skin prevent your skin care products from getting through. So no matter how expensive your moisturizer is, it won't do you much good if it can't do its job.
- Because the rate of cell renewal slows as we age, it is vitally important to assist the skin by supplementing its natural exfoliation process with peeling treatments. Freeing the skin's surface not only makes the skin appear fresh and healthy, it stimulates new cell generation. (Research indicates that it can even increase collagen levels, helping to reduce the effects of skin ageing.)
- New collagen production in turn restores the skin's firmness and radiance.
- For people who suffer from ingrown hairs, exfoliation can "liberate" such hairs as it removes the top dead layer of skin.
- Buffing away dead skin cells becomes more essential as we grow older. Young teenage skin takes around 20 days to renew completely. At the rate pollution and toxins accumulate in our skin, skin cell renewal is essential at any age.
- As the natural ageing process takes place, the cycle slows down, increasing to about 28 days in our late 20s and 30 days by the time we're 40. This results in thicker, duller-looking skin. During this time, the sebaceous, or oil-producing, glands also become less active, making the skin drier. Experts recommend giving your skin an exfoliating workout at least once a day, as part of your beauty regimen.
- The best time to exfoliate is just before bedtime. Exfoliation deep-cleanses and makes your skin a little sensitive. A good night's sleep will calm and soothe your skin while you dream away.

Don't think of exfoliation as a seasonal treatment for summertime. You should care for your skin all year round, not only when limbs emerge from their layers for the short few weeks of summer.

Bandera NG ATING BAYAN
PHOTO CONTEST
In coordination with NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
Photograph the Philippine Flag and get a chance to win!
See story below for details
Open to all amateur and professional photographers
What's at stake
• First Prize P50,000
• Second Prize P20,000
• Third Prize P10,000

BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST Mechanics: Here's what you should know!

1. The theme of the BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST is the Philippine flag. Contestants should photograph the Philippine Flag in a unique or dramatic situation.

2. Submit photo entry in 8R format (8" x 10"), either black & white or full color, original and not previously published in any form of print media. Each entry must include the corresponding negative or transparency

3. Contestants are required to fill out the official application form found in the tabloid, BANDERA, with their name, address, signature, contact number and attach three (3) clippings of the new BANDERA masthead.

4. Photocopies of the application form or the masthead will not be accepted.

5. Send entries to:
ANG BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST
c/o The Marketing Department
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
Yague St. Corner Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City 1205

6. Contestants may submit as many photo entries as they want, provided that each photo entry is accompanied by one (1) official application form and three (3) BANDERA mastheads.

7. PRIZES:
Prizes are as follows:
1st prize - P50,000; 2nd prize - P20,000
3rd prize - P10,000; and five (5) consolation prizes of P2,000 each.

8. A contestant may win only once. Should one contestant win more than once, He/She will get the prize of higher value.

9. CRITERIA:
Composition: 30%
Uniqueness: 20%
Technical: 20%
Overall Impact: 30%

10. BANDERA reserves the right over all submitted photo entries. Entries will not be returned to their respective owners. By entering the contest, each entrant agrees that BANDERA may use his/her name or image for contest promotion.

11. Deadline for submission of entries is on 6pm of December 18, 2002. Provincial entries must allow one (1) week for mailing. BANDERA will not be responsible for any lost or delayed entries.

12. A panel of judges will determine winning photos with the presence of a DTI representative on December 20, 2002.

13. The list of winners will be published on the December 23, 2002 issue of BANDERA. Winners will also be notified by registered mail

14. All employees of Inquirer Publications, Inc., and its affiliate companies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

15. Winners should present winner's notice and two (2) valid IDs when claiming their prize. Prizes may be claimed in the following areas:

METRO MANILA
Inquirer Publications, Inc
Alliance Building, Yague Stre
Makati City

CEBU
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-16 Escario Street, Cebu City

DAVAO
FEP Printing, Barangay Ma-a
Ma-a Road, Davao City

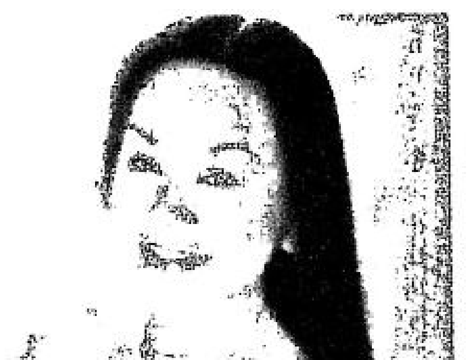
16. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Inquirer Publications, Inc. With prior DTI approval. Inquirer Publications will shoulder the 20% prize tax.

Promo period is from Sept. 23 to Dec. 18, 2002

See print ad in BANDERA for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3888, Series of 2002

Treatments to rejuvenate skin


ELLEN Lising

DESPITE her hectic schedule as a businesswoman, TV segment host and single mother of four, Ellen Lising, president of the Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetics Centers, still glows.

A beauty expert for the past 23 years, Lising explains the importance of having that "glowing look." "Looks play an important role in personality development and building self-confidence," she said.

Lising's skin care centers offer a wide range of rejuvenation programs and treatments that give skin its youthful glow. They also provide specially formulated skin care products, permanent cosmetics, laser treatments, body, hand and foot care.

The outlets of Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthetics Centers are located at West Ave., QC; Acropolis, Libis; Alabang; Sta. Cruz, Manila; Tarlac and Pampanga. Call 413-6357.

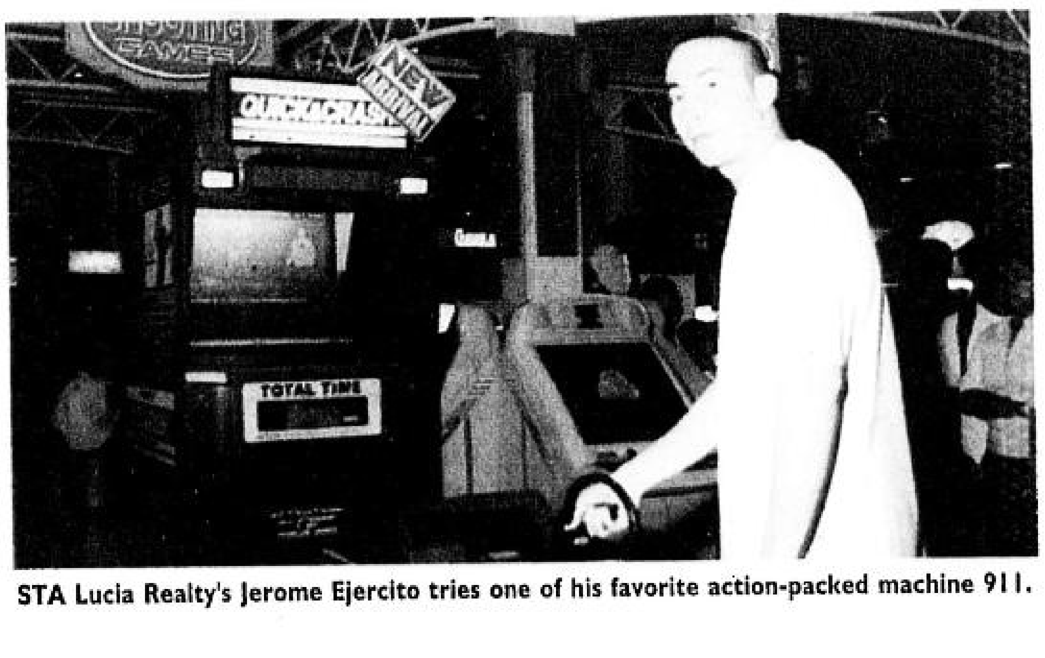
Hardcourt heroes play games at entertainment center

HARDCOURT action can sometimes prove too stressful even for basketball pros Marlou Aquino and Jerome Ejercito, both aces of the team Sta. Lucia Realtors, and two of the hottest PBA stars today. So when pressure feels a little too much in the hard court, both go to their favorite family entertainment center, Worlds of Fun.

With one of its 24 branches located at the Sta. Lucia East Grandmall in Cainta, Aquino and Ejercito have made Worlds of Fun their second stop when they're in the mall. After all, on the top level of the commercial center is where they do basketball practice almost every day.

Think of it as a harmless—and reasonably priced—release of hard court aggression when team guard Ejercito takes on the Police 911, one of the many explosive and action packed shooting games in the center, and fires away at virtual enemies in the video arcade. Or when Aquino, Sta. Lucia's center, positions his hands on the Quick & Crash, his favorite game.

Worlds of Fun have 24 branches located at prominent shopping malls in Metro Manila, throughout Luzon, the Visayas and even in Mindanao.



STA Lucia Realty's Jerome Ejercito tries one of his favorite action-packed machine 911.

Preventing knee pain

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

KNEE pain is no fun and can be a real killjoy for someone who loves to work out. It limits your choices of exercise so you can't do your favorite workouts anymore.

Chronic knee pain, the type you usually get from exercise, creeps up on you slowly. First, you feel it after the workout, then, during the workout. Soon, the pain is there even when you are not exercising, when you climb stairs or sit for long periods. You may hear a crunching or grating sound under the kneecap.

Why knee is easily injured

The knee is the largest and most complicated joint. It has to bear the load of the whole body. It is well designed, but easily abused since it is used in almost all our daily activities, not just when we work out. The culprit in many cases of knee pain is a muscle called the VMO or *vastus medialis obliquus*. This muscle is located on the inner side of the kneecap. When the VMO is weak, the kneecap tends to be pulled to the outside like a sliding door that is "jumping" its track. The result is premature wear and tear on the underside of the kneecap.

Women more vulnerable to knee injuries

When it comes to knees, women seem to have been dealt a raw deal. Penn State University reports that women are more prone than men to knee injuries, especially when playing quick stop-and-start sports like basketball, soccer, tennis and skiing. A University of Michigan study found that, in women, the quadriceps muscle (front of the thigh) tends to be much stronger than the hamstrings (back of the thigh). This imbalance can cause weak knees.

Scientists also found that knee injury rates double during ovulation when there are high levels of estrogen and relaxing (a hormone that is also present in pregnancy for the pelvic bones to widen). This may cause instability in the knee due to loose ligaments (connective tissue that connects bone to bone) and tendons (connects muscle to bone).

Other scientists have blamed women's wider hips. In a woman, the femur (thighbone) connects to the tibia (shinbone) at an angle instead of relatively straight on top. This is called the Q-angle or quadriceps angle. The wider the Q-angle, the greater the risk of knee injury. Maybe that's why top women marathon runners tend to have narrow hips like men.

Your shoes could be the problem

Women who wear high heels on a daily basis tend to develop osteoarthritis (cartilage inflammation) of the knee later in life, according to a study done at the Spaulding Rehabilitative Hospital in Boston. Osteoarthritis makes walking painful and, in some cases, unbearable. The longer the women wore high heels, the worse the damage. The width of the heel didn't matter. In other words, wide high heels caused as much damage as narrow stiletto-style high heels.

High heels throw your body forward and put 23 percent more pressure on your knees in the inside underneath the kneecap—precisely the areas where women tend to develop osteoarthritis. Those "killer" heels might be great for your figure but deadly for your knees. Wear low heels, flats or sneakers when you know you will be on your feet all day.

> Overuse injuries are the most common type of exercise injuries because you do the same kind of exercises too often

Worn-out athletic shoes can also cause knee problems. In Idea Personal Trainer magazine, Dr. Carol Frey of the Los Angeles Orthopedic Hospital states that "50 percent of a shoe's shock-absorbing capacity is gone after 300 miles of running or walking, or 300 hours of aerobics classes and 80 percent is gone after 500 miles or 500 hours." She also warns that for heavier people, the shoe loses shock absorption sooner. This means there is more impact to the joints.

"Even if the shoe is new, it may be the wrong shoe for you," says Frey. For example, a person with flat feet, whose feet have the tendency to fall inward, may unknowingly purchase a shoe meant for a person with high arches.

Overused knees

Overuse injuries are the most common type of exercise injuries. You aren't doing the exercises wrong, you're just doing the same kind too often. It's too much of a good thing. It is repetitive stress to the same part of the body; in this case the knees that can cause microscopic tears, inflammation and pain.

Strengthening the knee

Strong and flexible quadriceps (in particular, the VMO) and hamstrings would eliminate most knee pain. Many people start a vigorous exercise or sports program without having a solid foundation of strong muscles. It's sort of like taking your 10-year-old car from Aparri to Jolo without overhauling it.

According to George Canlas, sports medicine doctor of Sprain & Strain Clinic and St. Luke's Hospital, the quadriceps should only be about 20-30 percent stronger than the hamstrings. If the quadriceps are much stronger than that or the hamstrings are stronger than the quads, there is a risk of knee joint injury. Check out the Exercise of the Week to strengthen your VMO.

Preventing knee pain

Aside from strong muscles, good exercise techniques can prevent many cases of knee pain. When doing lunges or squats, avoid having your knees go past your toes. Avoid squats lower than 90 degrees.

When cycling, make sure you adjust the seat height correctly. A seat that is too low can cause pain in the inner side of the knees, while a seat that is too high can cause pain in the outside of the knee. Adjust the seat so that when the pedal is at the lowest position, your leg is almost, but not quite, straight. If you have to strain or rock your hips to pedal downward, you have the seat adjusted too high. If your knees feel crunched up toward your chest when you pedal upward, you have the seat adjusted too low.

Running or walking on the inner parts of an oval track forces you to turn tight corners. You can develop pain on the outside of the knee. Use the outer rings of the track instead and switch directions often—alternate going one way and then the other to even out the stress on your knees.

Avoid taking overly deep steps on a stepping machine. The knee shouldn't bend more than 70 degrees. Even if done safely, step aerobics can cause overuse injuries. Cross train or do a variety of aerobic exercises, not just step and more steps. When you do twisting and turning moves, be sure to twist and turn as you hop so your foot is not left to pivot on the bench, putting a twisting sort of pressure on your knee.

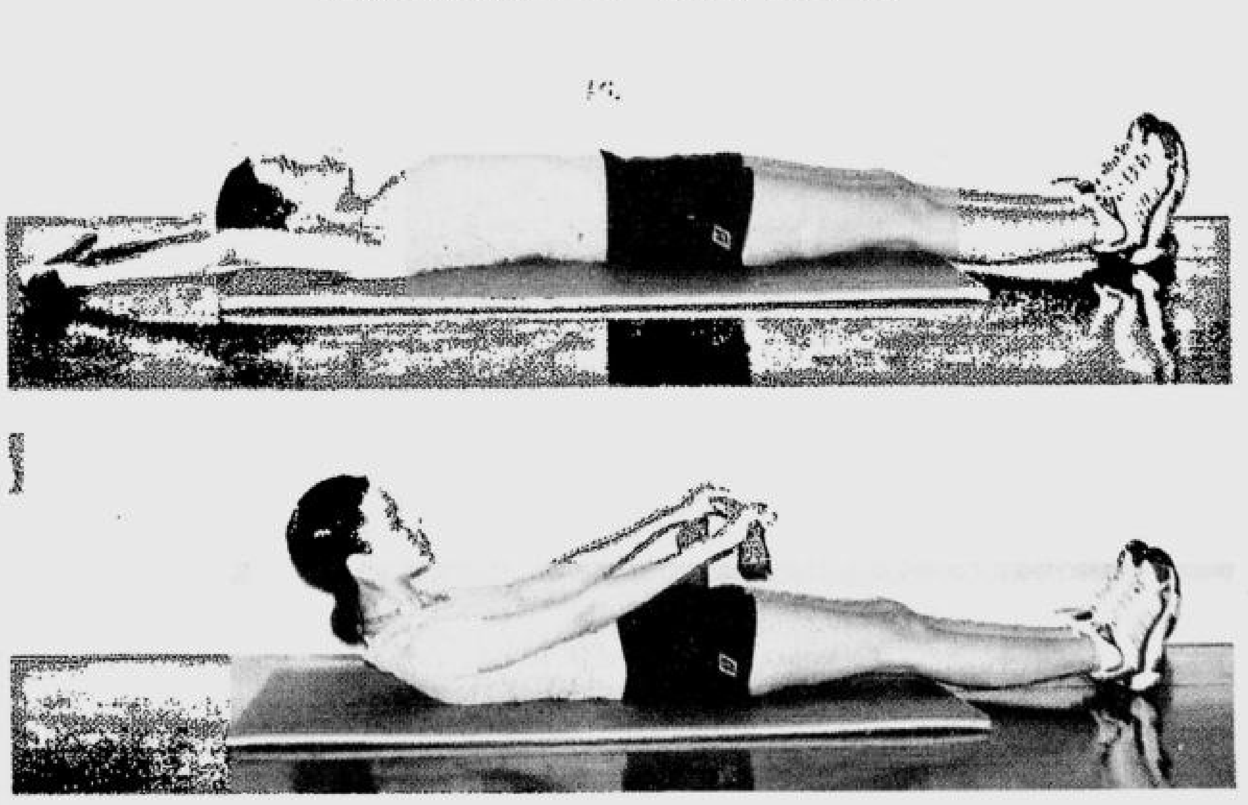
Watch out for too many lunges. There is less pressure on your knees when you are at your normal weight range. Each pound of body weight puts 6 pounds of pressure on the kneecap. Therefore, if you are 20 pounds overweight, you are putting an additional 120 pounds of pressure on your knees.

The Boston University Arthritis Center reports that losing excess weight may prevent future osteoarthritis. Even getting out of the car improperly can get your knees into trouble. Don't put one leg out and keep the other one in a planted and twisted position inside the car. Turn the whole body toward the door in one motion. Then use both legs to get out of the car.

(Reprinted—Dec. 15, 1998)

Visit www.tinajuanfitness.com.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Ab crunch with straight legs

STRENGTHENS abdominal muscles

Equipment:

Exercise mat and a belt, rope, stick or rubber band

Exercise technique:

1. Lie down with legs straight and arms overhead a little wider than shoulder width, holding a belt, rope, stick, or rubberband.

2. Simultaneously bring the arms forward as you curl the upper torso.

3. Slowly lower down to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. In the starting position with your arms overhead, make sure your lower back is not overarching. To be in proper alignment, make sure the back of your lower ribcage is touching the floor while still maintaining a natural curve on your lower back.

2. Initiate the movement by sliding the front of your lower ribcage toward the top of your hipbones. Your arms will follow naturally.

3. Exhale as you curl the upper torso; inhale as you return to starting position.

Repetitions:

Do 10-12 repetitions.

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Per DTI-NCR permit nos. 1127, 0618, and 3066, Series of 2002

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* The tripling of Frequent User points will be based on January 2003 statement cut-offs.

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2191 Series of 2002

During the holidays, be sure to use the credit cards that make gift-giving three times more rewarding. BPI Credit Cards. Take Charge.

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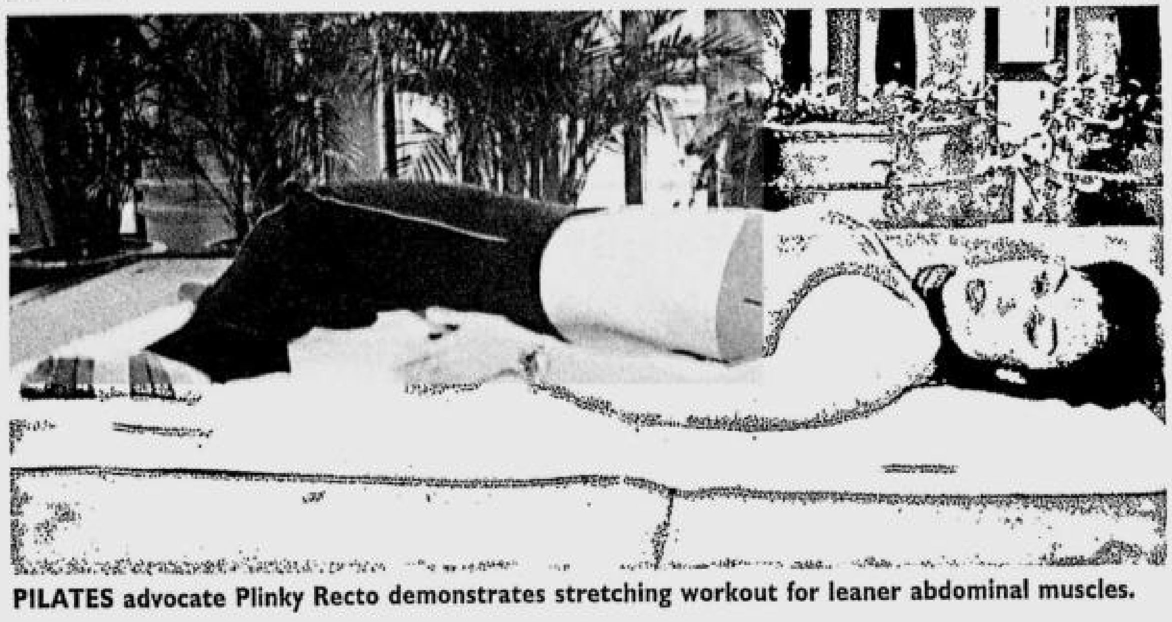
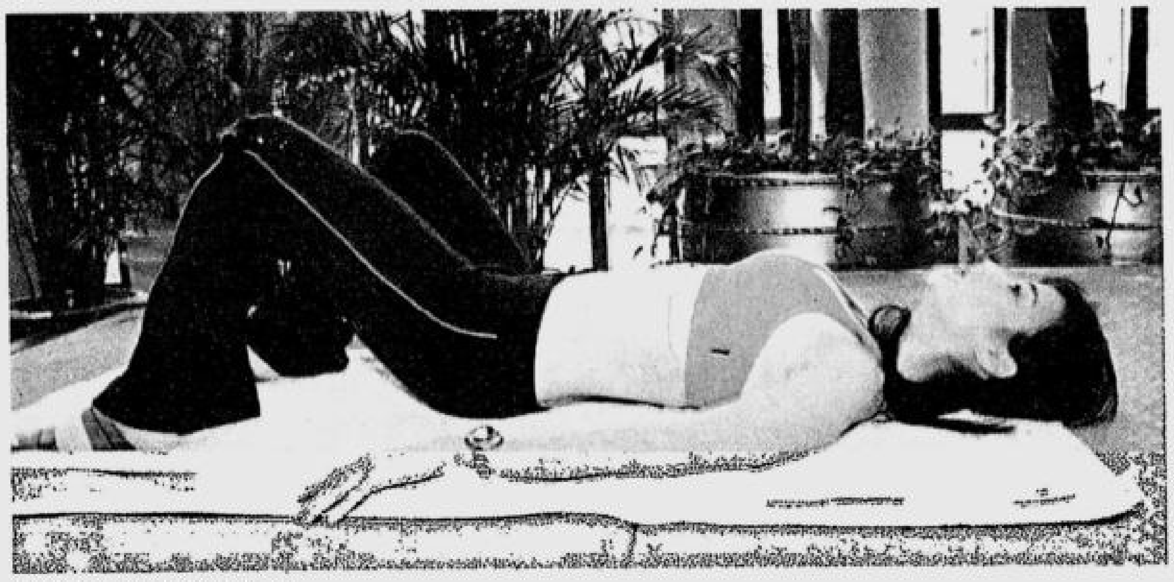


PILATES advocate Plinky Recto demonstrates stretching workout for leaner abdominal muscles.



MUSCLE toning routine

Plinky's do-it-yourself Pilates

Actress-turned-fitness instructor Plinky Recto wants you to do Pilates wherever, whenever

LIFE-CHANGING. The Pilates exercise system stimulates both mind and body.

Text by Leah Salterio
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FORMER actress Plinky Recto has been teaching Pilates for the past two years now, and one thing she has noticed is that most of her clients are always on the go, and that has kept them from their regular workouts.

This is what inspired Recto to come up with "Pilates To Go," an instructional package that her growing number of clients can bring wherever they go. "You can do it even on the beach," she says.

The package includes a booklet which provides illustration of each exercise, a pop-and-play VCD that takes one through the whole routine and The Cube, which users can use as they get to Level 2 of the program. Stage director Freddie Santos directed the exercise video.

Recto exudes a more youthful glow these days, thanks to Pilates. "I'm back to my weight of 122 pounds when I was still single," she says.

Her healthy lifestyle and inner peace are the result of a holistic, life-changing exercise system that stimulates both mind and body.

US-trained

"Pilates is a stretching, toning and strengthening workout which concentrates on the abdominal muscles," explains Recto. "Through regular workouts one develops longer, leaner muscles, as well as other benefits like increased mental focus and body awareness, and less tension."

She adds: "Pilates also realigns the body, relieves chronic joint and back pains and even helps in speeding up recovery from injuries and surgery."

And because she was a ballerina as a child, Recto has her share of shoulder, knee and ankle injuries. Ironically, she first heard about Pilates through Julie Borromeo, her ballet teacher.

In 2000, she flew to New York to study the Pilates method. "But I ended up in Sta. Fe, New Mexico, where the weather is much better and kinder," she says.

She enrolled at the Physical Mind Institute founded by Joan Breibart. After completing her instructor's program, she traveled to New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles for apprenticeship.

She also went through several accreditation tests. "I've been certified several times over in Pilates," Recto says.

"My approach revolves around making Pilates routines tailor-made to suit my clients' goals, personalities and time frames," she adds. And because she's a hands-on teacher, Recto clocks in around 10 hours of Pilates work every day.

Spine and bone specialist

Recto specializes in spine and osteoporosis problems. She also holds talks for post-cancer patients to help them adjust to their new lifestyle.

"It's good to know that people are getting more and more exposed to alternative exercise methods," she says. "That's precisely how I felt when I first tried Pilates. Now, I feel stronger and leaner."

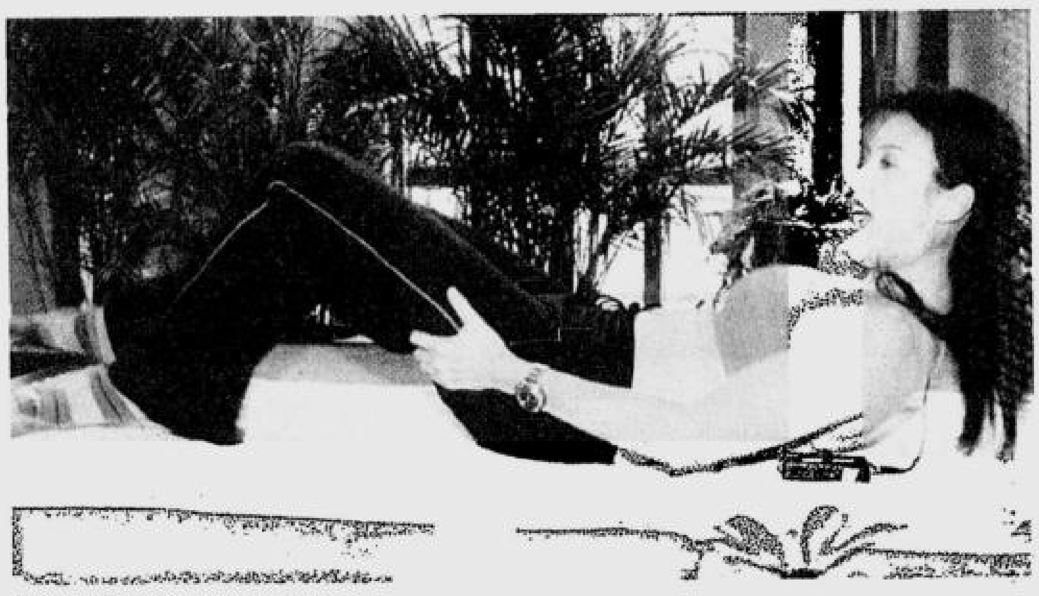
First-time clients are scheduled one-on-one sessions with Recto so she can assess their specific needs and flexibility.

Level 1 Pilates, according to Recto, is for people who don't really work out. Level 2 is for maintenance. She also holds duet and mat classes.

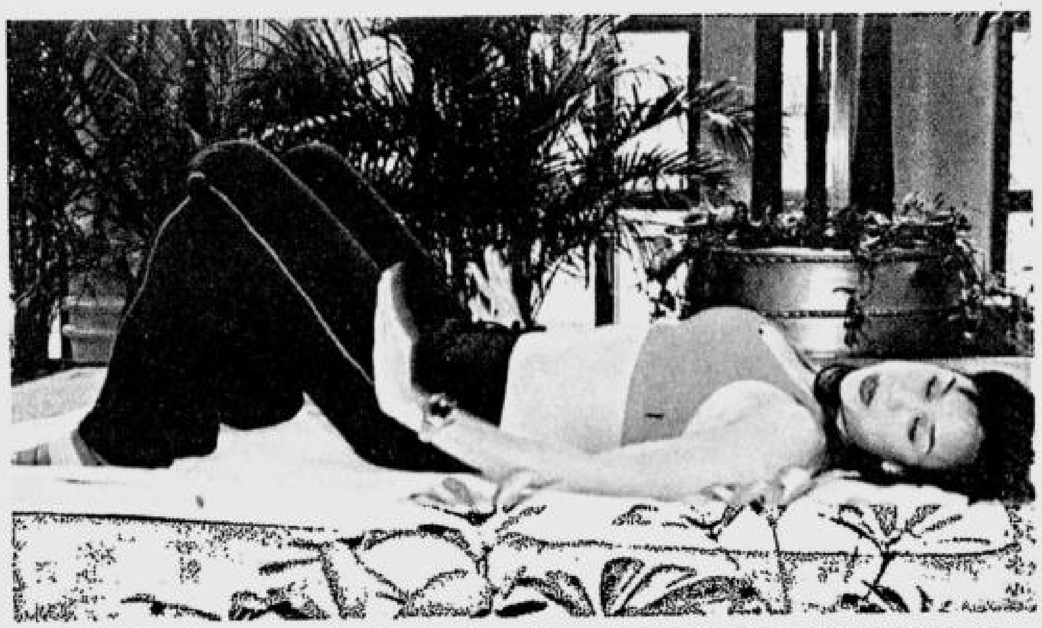
Last year, Recto invested in the expensive Pilates machines, which were shipped from the United States to Manila. She is quick to point out that they are nothing like the treadmills and Stairmasters you see in health clubs.

It was also last year that she opened her own health and fitness studio, The Bodyworker, at the Corinthian Plaza across Greenbelt I. "I'm a specialty shop. You can come to me if you have special requirements," she says.

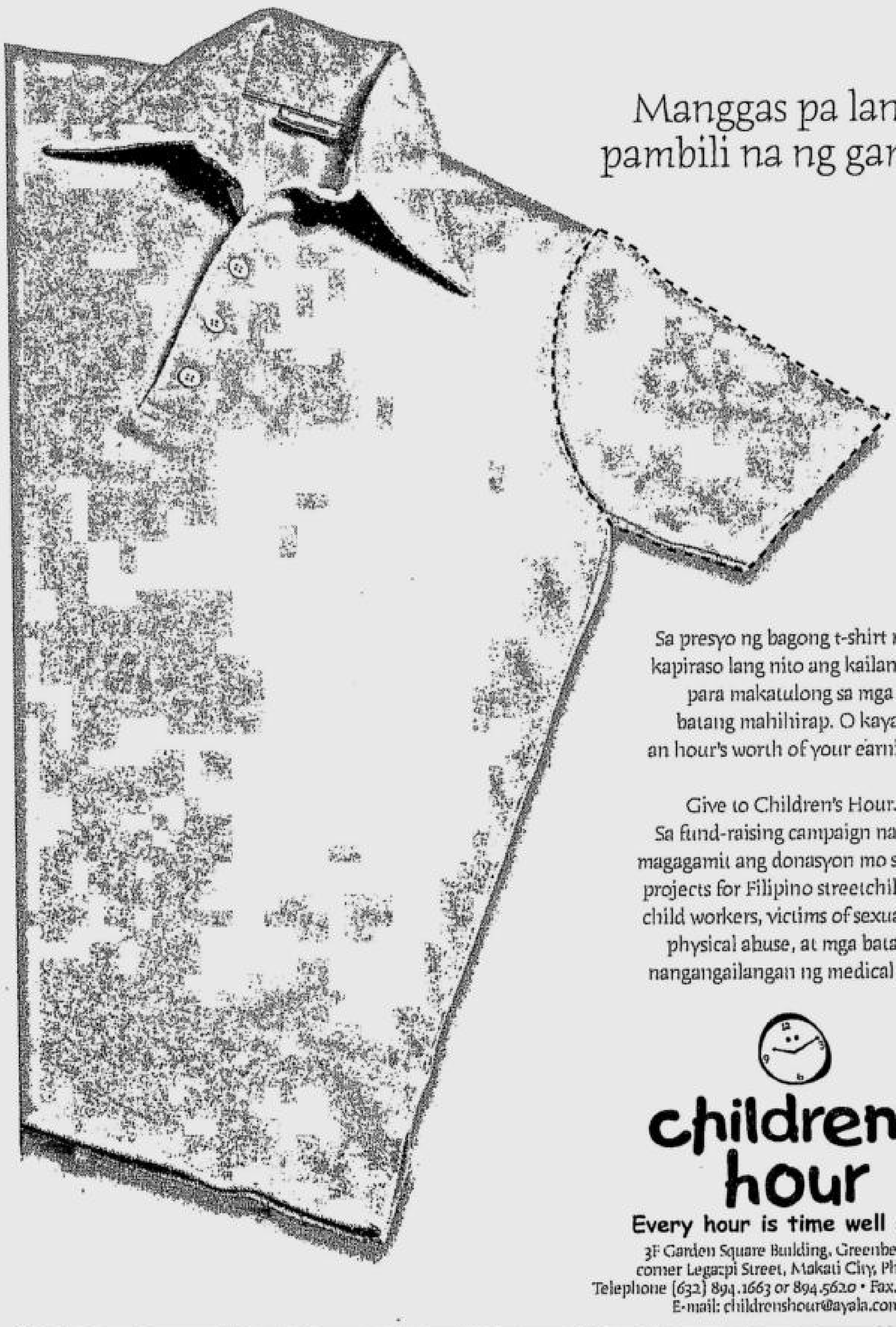
The "Pilates To Go" booklet is available exclusively at Toby's Sports House at all SM malls for P995.



STRENGTHENING exercise



NOT JUST for leaner muscles, Pilates also relieves back pains and realigns the body.



Manggas pa lang,
pambili na ng gamot.

Sa presyo ng bagong t-shirt mo,
kapiraso lang nito ang kailangan
para makatulong sa mga
batang mahihirap. O kaya,
an hour's worth of your earnings.

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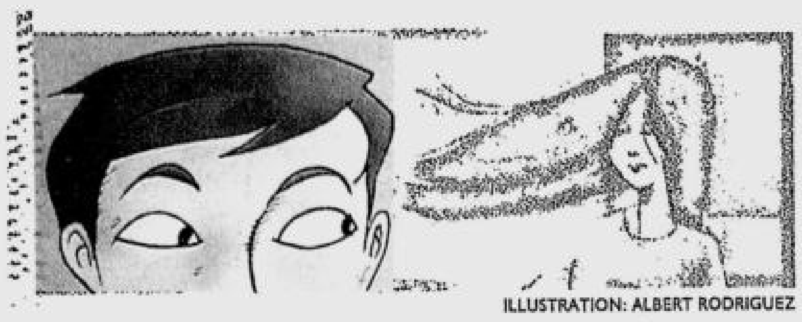


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Of white ladies, sleep paralysis and other strange events

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

A READER who signed himself (or herself) as Yungchang24, e-mailed the following questions about certain strange events he experienced:

1. "What's the origin of white ladies? What can be done to repel them?

We had one in our house last year. What's strange is that only my sister and I could see her! She used to appear in my room near the door connecting to my parents' room, usually past midnight, until my mom taped some papers with Chinese words on every door in our house. She no longer appeared after that.

"Just want to know, why only my sister and me could see her and also how did those papers stop her from appearing?"

White ladies are earthbound spirits, meaning, they are spirits of dead women who are not at peace and who probably cannot accept yet their own deaths. And so they haunt the living. They usually appear either at or near the place where they died or where their bodies are buried. Even if a house is new, it can be haunted because the body may have been buried under the house many years before it was constructed. Try to trace the history of the house and the ground on which it stands.

Supernatural creatures visit living beings and negative ones interfere with their lives. But there are ways of dealing with spirits

Spirits can be seen only through clairvoyant vision, or what is popularly known as the "third eye." Therefore this means you and your sister are clairvoyant, or your third eye is open. The others cannot see because they do not have your sensitivity or power. You and your sister are natural mediums.

Those papers your mother posted on doors must contain prayers or power words to ward off earthbound spirits. Every culture has its own way of dealing with disturbed spirits like that. In the Philippines, powerful "oracions" on paper or cloth are used to ward off spirits. They are called "pangontra." I think the Chinese way is to have names of Chinese gods on paper together with some chants or prayers. These rituals usually work because words have power.

2. "One night, while surfing the net, I was also listening to the radio. Suddenly, the music stopped. Thinking the CD got stuck, I looked and saw it playing but there was no sound.

"Suddenly I heard voices behind me, like several old men chanting in raspy low voices. I couldn't understand what they were saying, but definitely the language was not Tagalog. I turned around but nobody was there. Still the voices continued.

"I ran to my sister's room and dragged her out, but the voices disappeared and the CD played again. This happened only once. Do you have any explanation or theory about this incident?"

Yes, there is an explanation. While listening to the music you went into an altered state of consciousness. In effect you were in a light trance. This happens to many people without realizing it because they feel they are still completely in control of their minds and senses.

In an altered or hypnotic state, sometimes we go to realms above the physical level. We become aware of sounds or events not in the physical plane, but in the etheric, astral and spiritual planes. We even sometimes have glimpses of future or past events we have no knowledge of in our normal state of mind.

When you rushed out and dragged your sister out of her room, you returned to your normal physical state of mind. In technical terms, your brain waves returned to the Beta level, from say, the Alpha or Theta levels. That's why the sound of music returned. This is explained more extensively in my Inner Mind Development seminar.

3. "I sometimes have dreams during which I couldn't move. What's strange is that I am aware of my surroundings. I can hear people talking and laughing while my body is paralyzed! No matter how hard I try I can't seem to move. And whenever I wake up from such a dream, I feel physically drained.

"One night, when having such an experience, I heard two voices arguing. The first voice laughed wickedly and said, "I have you now where I wanted! You now belong to me!"

"I suspect the first voice to be the devil's. Then the second voice exclaimed, 'No, don't! He's done some good in his life. You can't take him!' I concluded the second voice to be of an angel.

"When I woke up I was drenched in sweat. When I told a friend about it, he merely laughed and said it was just my guilty conscience. I seldom have those dreams now. What do you think? Is it really just my conscience? Or was I really visited by a devil and an angel? Or did I go astral traveling? Are there cases where humans were visited by supernatural beings?"

Definitely you had an out-of-body experience (OOBE). When we project our astral body out of our physical body, we can't move until we go back.

It is difficult for me to tell whether the voices you heard were mere auditory hallucinations, caused by religious conditioning, or real visitations by spirits. They can be interpreted either way, because we have no other data to work on.

If you are a very religious person and a conservative one at that, you may be imagining your own devil or angel. Although I believe they exist as real, separate entities, they do not look like what they are usually pictured to be. I believe the devil to be as handsome as an angel because they are both angels, remember? It is only our religious conditioning that has transformed the devil into a monstrous-looking creature. Lucifer, for example, is described in the Bible as a handsome creature and is called the "Light Bearer." He is not ugly at all.

It is true that supernatural creatures have visited living beings and some negative ones even interfere with their lives. There are many documented cases of such spirit interference into the world of the living. But there are ways of dealing with them. The first thing to do is to learn more about the nature of the spirit world and its inhabitants.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Urban Jungle Adventure Race set

MORE than 25 teams will join the Urban Jungle Adventure Race on Nov. 23. The event is sponsored by San Mig Light and Pinoy-Central.

The teams who entered the competition's Advanced Category include the all-ladies team Lakambini, and mountaineering clubs and outdoor groups Trek-ADUMS, Team ni Tambi, GEC-Cancer Warriors, AMCI-One, UST-MC, Pitman, MMS 1, Cool Dudes and Poro Lacad-Loco. These teams, each composed of four racers and two support crew, will race at a maximum of 24 hours on Nov. 23 in a 100-kilometer course with legs in running, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming, orienteering, rappelling, among other physical and mental tasks.

Competing in the fun category are Team Camelbak, UST-MC II, Soil Slappers, ADUMS Malayang Hangin, BFRB, BFRB II, SHI'MANONG AR, Explosive Force, Team Manila Dragons, Rowers Club Philippines, and MITMC-Adventure Team.

Five teams initially entered in the Media and Celebrity Category: News Central, Wave, DWRX, OWNS and FHM Girls. Entries in these two categories will compete in running, mountain biking, kayaking and repelling, and other mental and physical tasks for a maximum of six hours on Nov. 23 in a course of about 30 kilometers.

The Greenhills Shopping Center will be the base camp of the race that will run through several cities in Metro Manila. Race briefings will be held on Nov. 21, 2-4 p.m., at the Grilla Bar & Grill along Kalayaan, Ave., Makati City. At least one racer and one support crew should be present in the briefing, wherein race kits will be distributed with complete registration documents. A maximum of three members only per team will be accommodated during the briefing.

FUN RUN

DEFENSE Sec. Angelo T. Reyes goes for a 3-K run in Camp Aguinaldo, with some Department of National Defense military and civilian employees. The fun run was part of the commemoration of the 63rd DND anniversary on Nov. 11.

Diabetes undetected in over a quarter of obese population

OVER one quarter of obese people may have previously undetected or untreated type 2 diabetes or pre-diabetes (impaired glucose tolerance), according to the data presented at the recent European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) meeting in Hungary. This translates to around 100 million people worldwide who may be at risk of diabetes.

The results of the 4-year Prevention of Diabetes in Obese Subjects (Xendos) study involving 3,304 patients demonstrated that the weight loss medication Xenical can prevent or delay the development of type 2 diabetes. The Xendos study showed significant and sustained weight loss with Xenical over the long term.

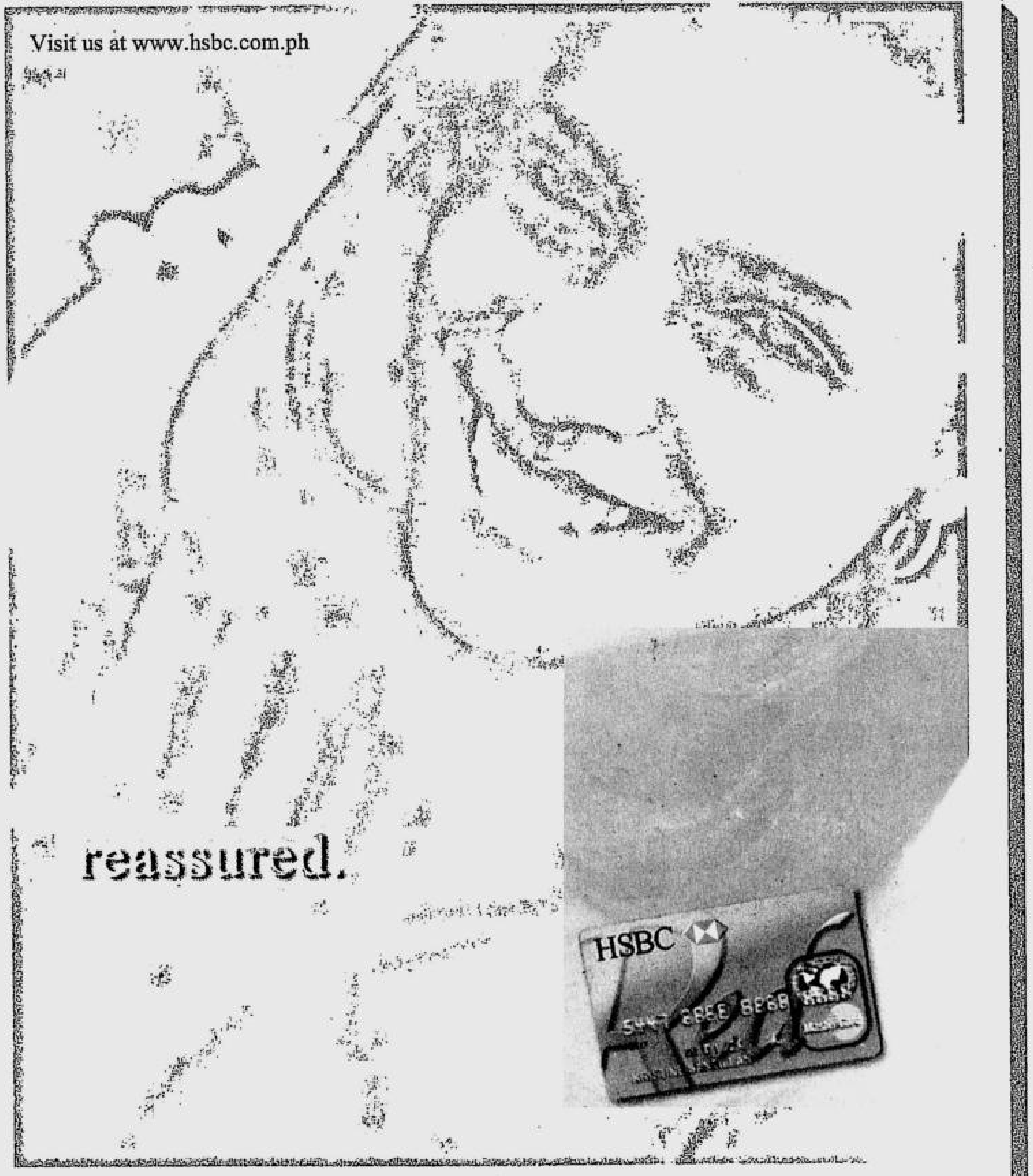
"This study shows that the scale of type 2 diabetes epidemic is alarming. Studies like the Diabetes Prevention Program have shown that lifestyle change is the basis of preventing diabetes, but by adding Xenical, people could go even further in preventing the disease." Xendos co-principal investigator Dr. Jarl Torgerson said.

Compared with the change in an obese person's lifestyle alone than those who tried lifestyle change plus Xenical treatment, the results were better with the latter. The latter has lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes; weight loss, both in short and long term was significantly greater; and, they have more significant, sustained and long term improvements in cardiovascular risk factors such as blood pressure and lipid profiles.

Experts address issues on nephrology, hypertension and transplantation

EXPERTS from all over the world will discuss and provide the most current research and updates on various topics in nephrology, hypertension and transplantation during the 14th Asian Colloquium in Nephrology on Nov. 19-22 at the Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong.

The 4-day event is organized by the Philippine Society of Nephrology Inc. There will be a pre-convention program, which includes a Clinico-pathologic conference and a talk on ICU-Nephrology. Plenary lectures will be on Transplant Immunology; Interaction of Salt, Angiotensin II, and Aldosterone in Hypertension; IgA Nephropathy in Children; Body Fluid Volume Regulation: Implications for cardiac failure, cirrhosis and pregnancy; and DM Nephropathy: A world pandemic.



RED MasterCard supports the Filipina in her fight against breast cancer.

For women, breast cancer is a growing concern. Recent studies show that the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia and the 9th highest in the world.

To help women in the fight against breast cancer, RED MasterCard offers its cardholders **20% off on breast ultrasound examination fees** in addition to the card's free medical consultation benefits. To avail of the discount, just present your RED MasterCard at select Healthway Medical Clinics in Metro Manila until 31 December 2002.

When it comes to breast cancer, a medical check-up can save you a lot of worry. In fact, it may even help save your life. Call Healthway Medical Clinics at 892-3731, 814-0679 or 814-0691 and schedule your check-up today. For counseling, you may call the "I Can Serve" Foundation at 687-3942 or email them at icanserve@yahoo.com.

HEALTHWAY

Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2079, Series of 2002

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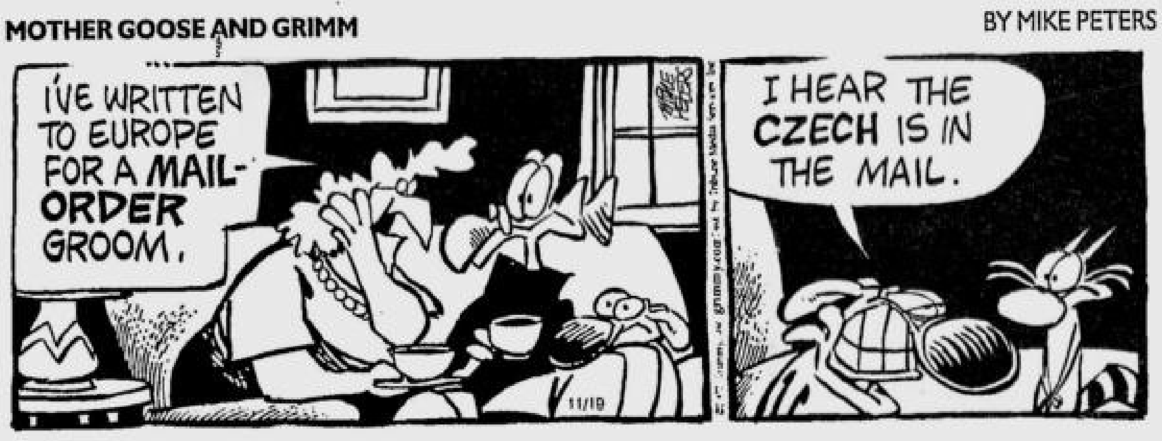
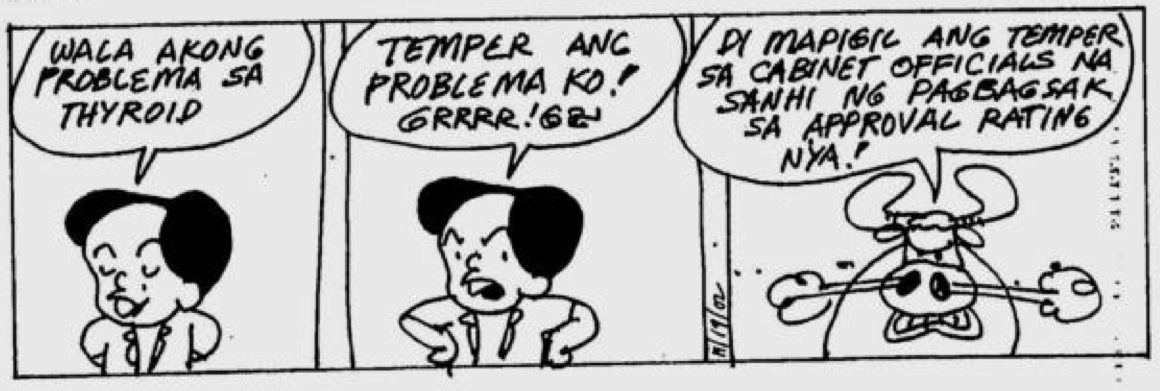
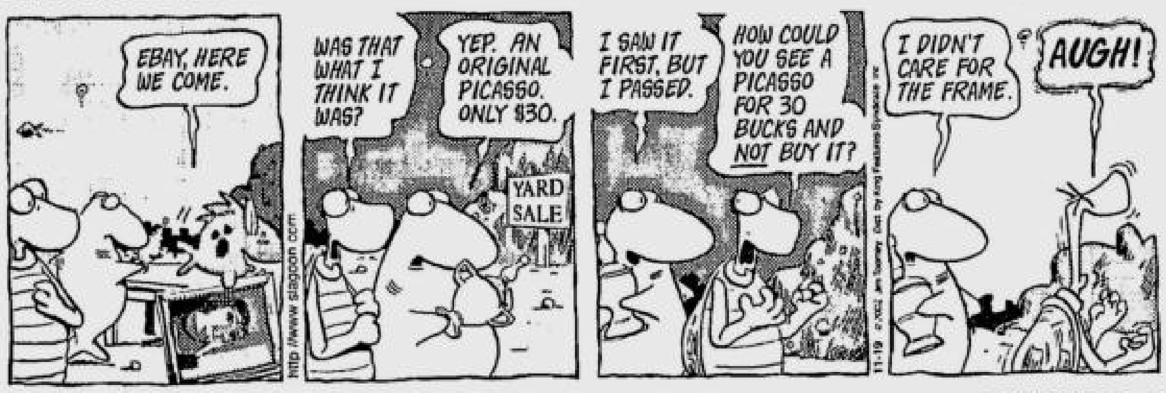
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


I'VE WRITTEN TO EUROPE FOR A MAIL-ORDER GROOM.
I HEAR THE CZECH IS IN THE MAIL.
11/19

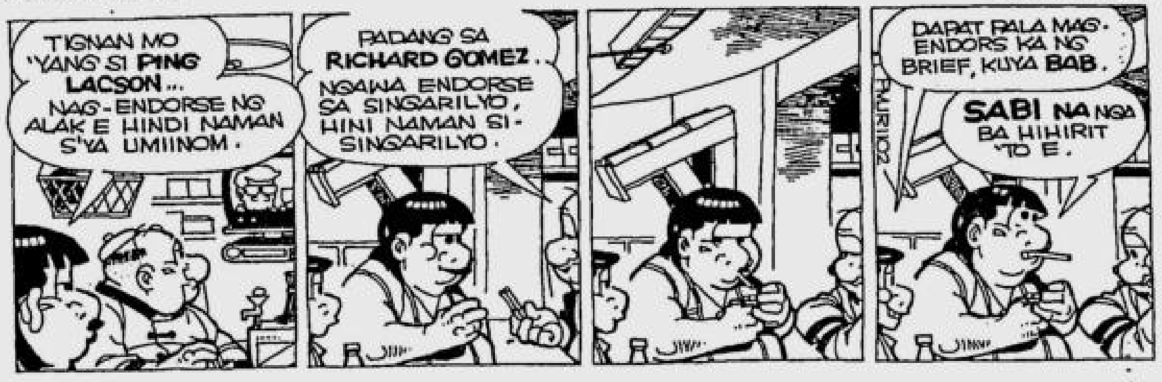
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


WALA AKONG PROBLEMA SA THYROID
TEMPER ANG PROBLEMA KO! GRRRR!
DI MAPIGIL ANG TEMPER SA CABINET OFFICIALS NA SANHI NG PAGBAGSAK SA APPROVAL RATING NYA!

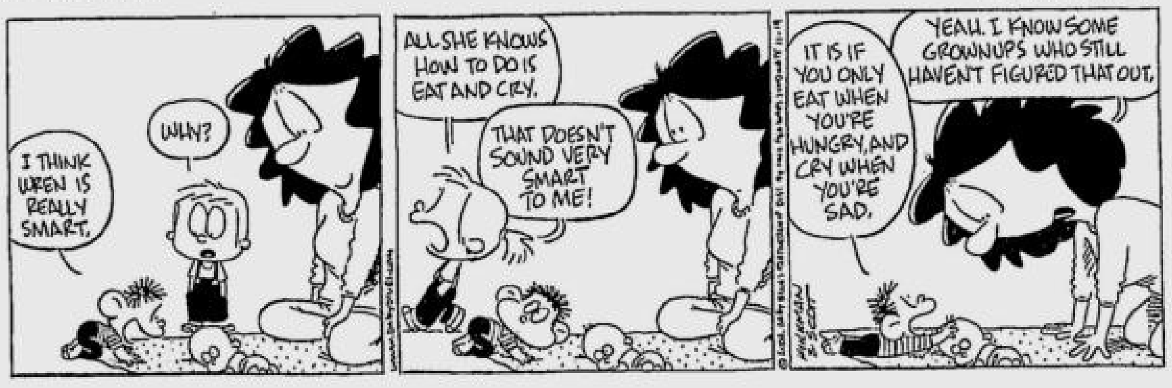
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


EBAY, HERE WE COME.
WAS THAT WHAT I THINK IT WAS?
YEP. AN ORIGINAL PICASSO. ONLY $30.
YARD SALE
I SAW IT FIRST, BUT I PASSED.
HOW COULD YOU SEE A PICASSO FOR 30 BUCKS AND NOT BUY IT?
I DIDN'T CARE FOR THE FRAME.
AUGH!
http://www.slagoon.com

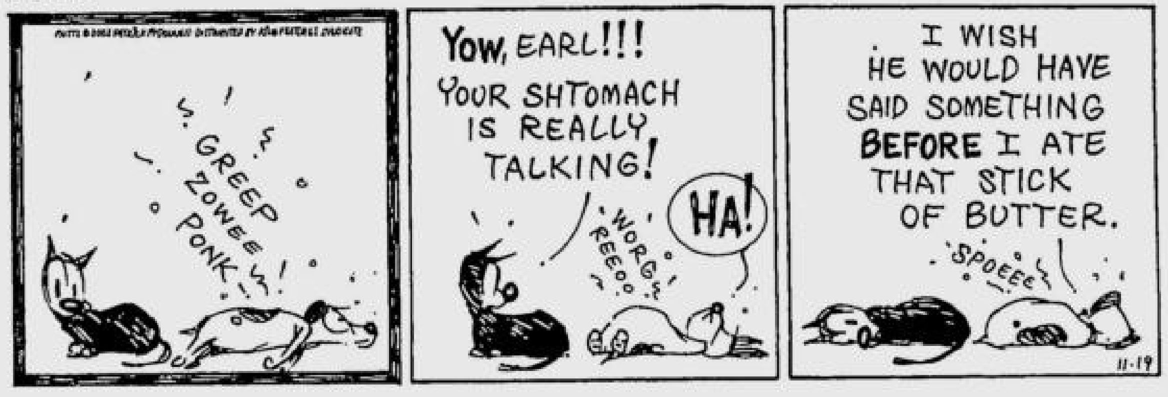
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO 'YANG SI PING LACSON... NAG-ENDORSE NG ALAK E HINDI NAMAN S'YA UMIINOM.
PADANG SA RICHARD GOMEZ. NGAWA ENDORSE SA SINGARILYO, HINI NAMAN SI-SINGARILYO.
DAPAT PALA MAG-ENDORS KA NG BRIEF, KUYA BAB.
SABI NA NGA BA HIHIRIT 'TO E.

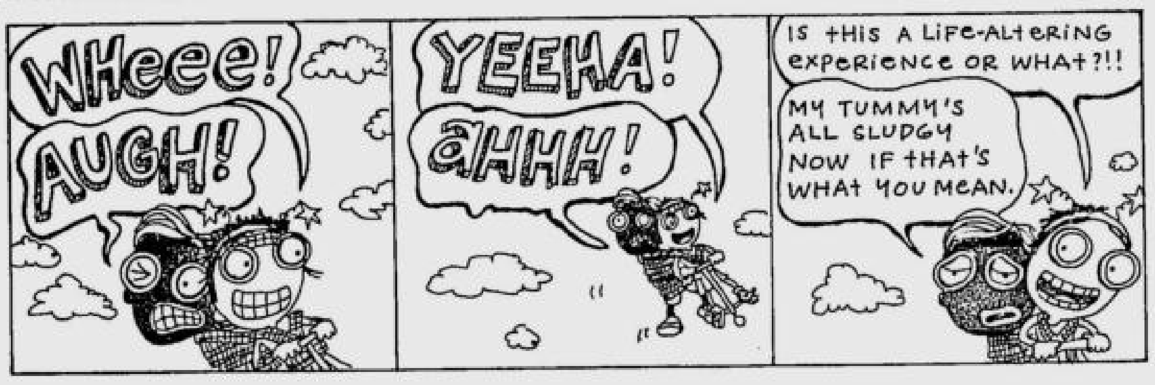
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I THINK WREN IS REALLY SMART.
WHY?
ALL SHE KNOWS HOW TO DO IS EAT AND CRY.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND VERY SMART TO ME!
IT IS IF YOU ONLY EAT WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY, AND CRY WHEN YOU'RE SAD.
YEAH. I KNOW SOME GROWNUPS WHO STILL HAVEN'T FIGURED THAT OUT.

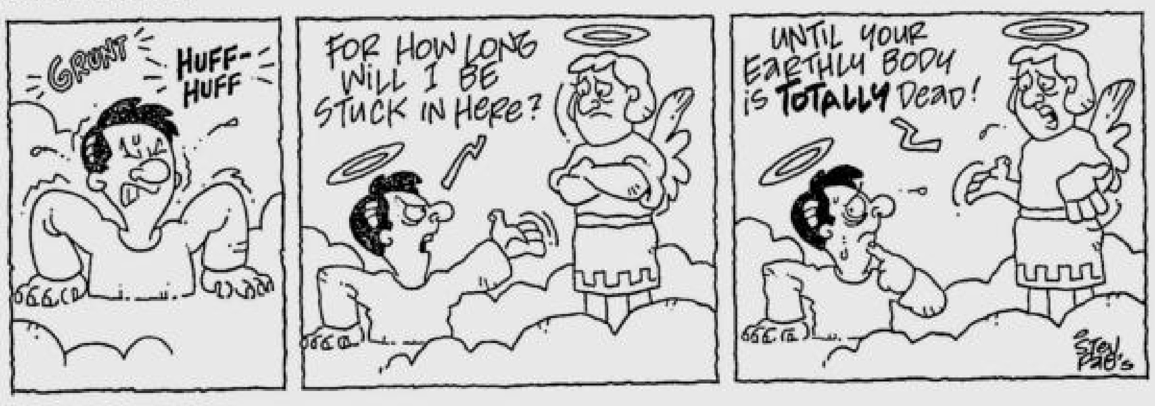
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


GREEP ZOWEE PONK
YOW, EARL!!! YOUR SHTOMACH IS REALLY TALKING!
WORG REEOO
HA!
I WISH HE WOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING BEFORE I ATE THAT STICK OF BUTTER.
SPOEEE
11-19

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHeee!
AUGH!
YEEHA!
aHHH!
IS THIS A LIFE-ALTERING EXPERIENCE OR WHAT?!!
MY TUMMY'S ALL SLUDGY NOW IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


GRUNT
HUFF-HUFF
FOR HOW LONG WILL I BE STUCK IN HERE?
UNTIL YOUR EARTHLY BODY IS TOTALLY DEAD!
STEV PAB'S

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, Meg Ryan, Larry King, Dick Cavett

Happy Birthday: Your attitude will be what makes a difference this year. As long as you plan your actions with great care and you are intent on not taking on too much, you will reach the success that you are looking for. Love and romance will be heightened this year and you can expect to hear from long-lost friends. Your numbers are 10, 14, 23, 35, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be a little explosive with your partner. Control your emotions and your words. Gather all the facts before you take action.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make your plans carefully and be sure to include the one you love. You may have been neglectful lately. Take advantage of travel for business and make the occasion extra special for you and your mate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is an excellent day to join new groups and expand your circle of friends. Do not overspend or donate too much cash. Give of your time and talents rather than your wallet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't allow your emotional partner to play with your heart. Make your choices and follow through. You must be willing to let go of the past so you're open to what the future has in store.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get involved intimately with colleagues or employers. Gossip is evident and the chances of damaging your reputation could cause a definite setback. Keep your personal life to yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Children may be trying today. Don't hesitate to get out and do things for yourself. You can make career moves or earn extra cash if you put your mind to it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be very careful with regard to negotiating or signing contracts or agreements. Use your discipline to accomplish personal goals or to break bad habits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pleasure trips will lead to romantic connections. You can mix business with pleasure if you plan your schedule carefully. Remain calm and keep your emotions to yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Communicate with those who can shed some light on your present position. Friends or relatives may be demanding. Be sure that you don't take on too much.

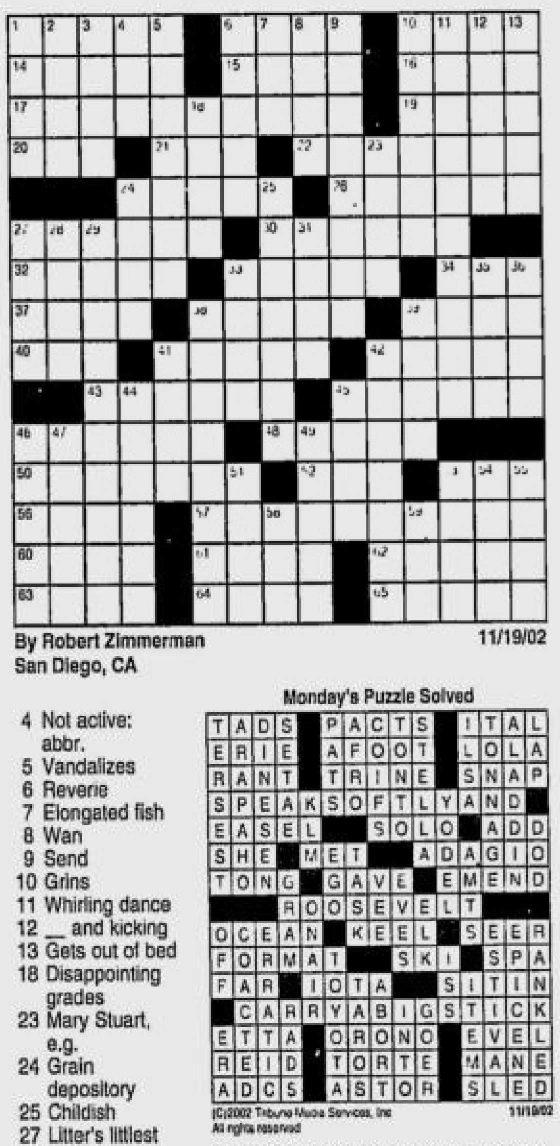
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your efforts into getting ahead. Your personal life may be experiencing difficulties. Accept the changes that you are facing and focus your energy on your career.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your efforts will be wasted if you allow depression or negativity to cloud your objectives. Keep your emotions in check and you can learn a lot. Educational pursuits will be to your advantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Greater involvement in cultural groups will enable you to meet allies and stimulate ideas you can apply to projects in progress. Take care of overdue bills or correspondence.

Birthday Baby: You will have strong beliefs and a very strong will throughout your life. You will always want to be in charge and in control. You will take the initiative and do what you say you will do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
11/19/02

ACROSS
1 Curling or bowling, e.g.
6 Part of USDA
10 Bill topper
14 Horatio of fiction
15 Stem section
16 Timbuktu land
17 Italian sausage
19 Blue flag
20 Ram's dam
21 "The __ Wolf"
22 Put in bondage
24 Moe's brother
26 Bergman's "__ from a Marriage"
27 Bane of dogs
30 To the max
32 Arctic to Kazakhstan range
33 Ledger entry
34 Ambassador's off.
37 Despotic ruler
38 Gem weight
39 Appeal
40 Keyboard key
41 Low point
42 Add up
43 Unmelodic
45 Way around
46 Mason's Della
48 Satellite of Jupiter
50 Latticework structure
52 Parseghian of football
53 CIA predecessor
56 Rivulet
57 Brooklyn catcher, 1948-57
60 Up to the task
61 Whoppers
62 Hose material
63 Have on
64 Border
65 "Easter 1916" poet

DOWN
1 Ditto
2 Farm implement
3 Fairy-tale beast
4 Not active: abbr.
5 Vandalizes
6 Reverie
7 Elongated fish
8 Wan
9 Send
10 Grins
11 Whirling dance
12 __ and kicking
13 Gets out of bed
18 Disappointing grades
23 Mary Stuart, e.g.
24 Grain depository
25 Childish
27 Litter's littlest
28 Realm
29 1968 Jane Fonda movie
31 Ski lift
33 Arp's art movement
35 Tillis and Torme
36 Bengal and Biscay, e.g.
38 Chant
39 Head Smurf
41 December refrain
42 Despot's reign
44 Penn and __
45 Actress Theda
46 Woven hat fiber
47 Group with a common ancestry
49 Concentration gap
51 Stated
53 Spicy stew
54 Assigned time
55 Without: Fr.
58 Tilly or Ryan
59 Give the once-over

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	D	S	■	P	A	C	T	S	■	I	T	A	L
E	R	I	E	■	A	F	O	O	T	■	L	O	L	A
R	A	N	T	■	T	R	I	N	E	■	S	N	A	P
S	P	E	A	K	S	O	F	T	L	Y	A	N	D	■
E	A	S	E	L	■	■	S	O	L	O	■	A	D	D
S	H	E	■	M	E	T	■	■	A	D	A	G	I	O
T	O	N	G	■	G	A	V	E	■	E	M	E	N	D
■	■	■	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T	■	■	■
O	C	E	A	N	■	K	E	E	L	■	S	E	E	R
F	O	R	M	A	T	■	■	S	K	I	■	S	P	A
F	A	R	■	I	O	T	A	■	■	S	I	T	I	N
■	C	A	R	R	Y	A	B	I	G	S	T	I	C	K
E	T	T	A	■	O	R	O	N	O	■	E	V	E	L
R	E	I	D	■	T	O	R	T	E	■	M	A	N	E
A	D	C	S	■	A	S	T	O	R	■	S	L	E	D

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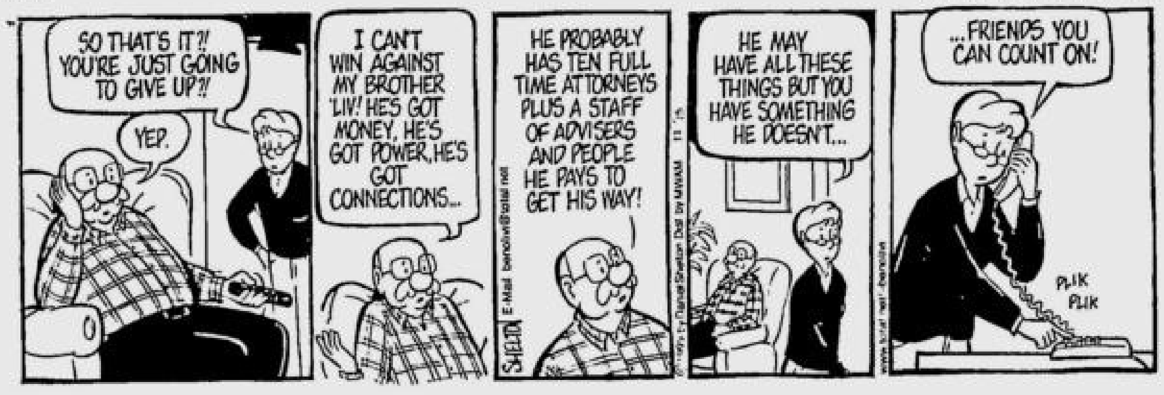
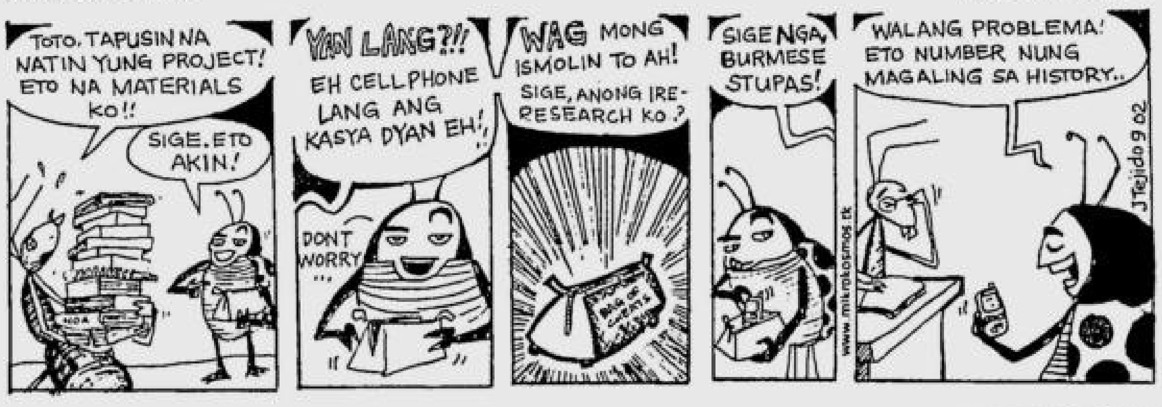
Stumped? Call 900-656-8900. 99 cents a minute

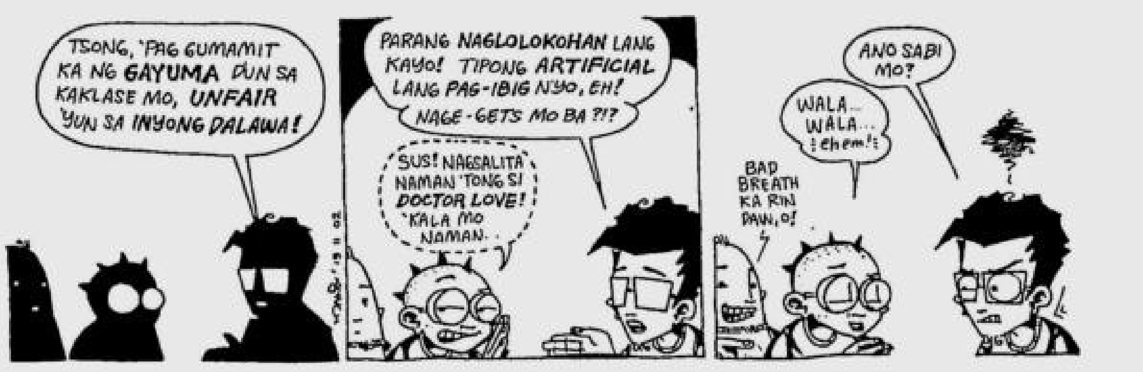
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO THAT'S IT?! YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GIVE UP?!
YEP.
I CAN'T WIN AGAINST MY BROTHER 'LIV! HE'S GOT MONEY, HE'S GOT POWER, HE'S GOT CONNECTIONS...
HE PROBABLY HAS TEN FULL TIME ATTORNEYS PLUS A STAFF OF ADVISERS AND PEOPLE HE PAYS TO GET HIS WAY!
HE MAY HAVE ALL THESE THINGS BUT YOU HAVE SOMETHING HE DOESN'T...
...FRIENDS YOU CAN COUNT ON!
PLIK PLIK
SHELTON

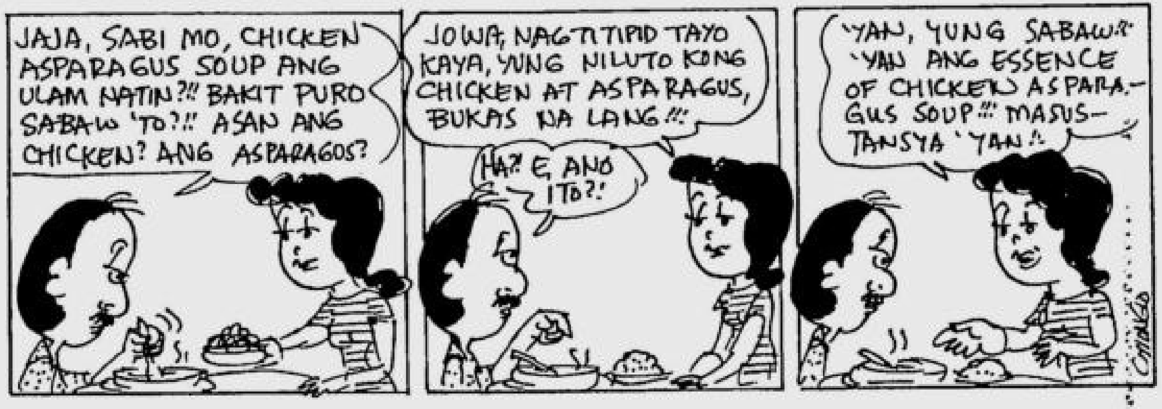
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


TOTO, TAPUSIN NA NATIN YUNG PROJECT! ETO NA MATERIALS KO!!
SIGE, ETO AKIN!
YAN LANG?!! EH CELLPHONE LANG ANG KASYA DYAN EH!
DONT WORRY...
WAG MONG ISMOLIN TO AH! SIGE, ANONG IRE-RESEARCH KO?
SIGE NGA, BURMESE STUPAS!
WALANG PROBLEMA! ETO NUMBER NUNG MAGALING SA HISTORY..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
JTejido 9 02

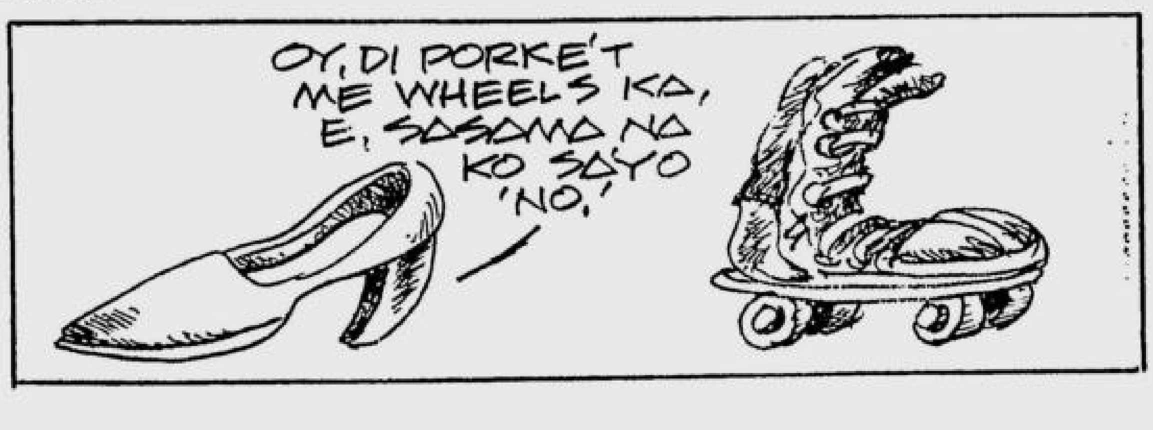
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, 'PAG GUMAMIT KA NG GAYUMA DUN SA KAKLASE MO, UNFAIR 'YUN SA INYONG DALAWA!
PARANG NAGLOLOKOHAN LANG KAYO! TIPONG ARTIFICIAL LANG PAG-IBIG N'YO, EH! NAGE-GETS MO BA ?!?
SUS! NAGSALITA NAMAN 'TONG SI DOCTOR LOVE! 'KALA MO NAMAN.
BAD BREATH KA RIN DAW, O!
WALA... WALA... !ehem!!
ANO SABI MO?

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, SABI MO, CHICKEN ASPARAGUS SOUP ANG ULAM NATIN?!! BAKIT PURO SABAW 'TO?!! ASAN ANG CHICKEN? ANG ASPARAGOS?
JOWA, NAGTITIPID TAYO KAYA, YUNG NILUTO KONG CHICKEN AT ASPARAGUS, BUKAS NA LANG!!!
HA? E, ANO ITO?!
'YAN, YUNG SABAW!! 'YAN ANG ESSENCE OF CHICKEN ASPARAGUS SOUP!!! MASUSTANSYA 'YAN!
CHIONGLO

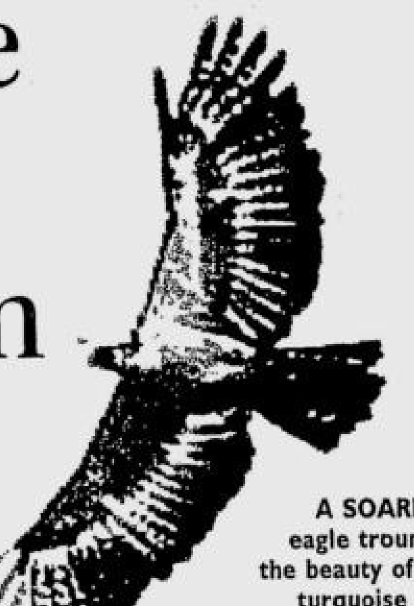
TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, DI PORKE'T ME WHEELS KA, E, SASAMA NA KO SAYO 'NO.'

THIS 50-plus-year-old *bagtikan* tree in the Eagle Center is said to provide P10-million worth of benefits for the environment, including oxygen and fertilizers.

> Since the Philippine Eagle Foundation is not getting any financial support from the government, voluntary contributions remain its sole lifeblood

Philippine eagle perches on edge of extinction



A SOARING eagle trounces the beauty of the turquoise sky.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PEF

From page C8

crocodile, python, Philippine deer, sea eagles, hawk, owls and macaques.

Contrary to the common Filipino attitude, Philippine eagles are, well, monogamous. "They only have one mate in a lifetime," relates Tadena, "but every year, during the off-breeding season, the male eagle has to court the female [before they can mate]."

The breeding season usually starts in June and extends until February. An eagle in the wild, however, can lay only one egg in every two years.

"But in the Eagle Center, there are prolific birds that lay eggs as early as August to September," Tadena discloses. "We get and manipulate their eggs, and after 1½ to 2 months, they will be induced to make another egg."

The strategy is called "double-clutching technique," in which the eagle can produce two eggs in one season. "There are eagles, though, that hardly produce because they lay eggs in-between November and December," he says.

Tadena has been with PEF since day one, and has devoted most of his life breeding Philippine eagles that he, well, may have found hardly a time to breed his own children. His job is absolutely no chicken feed, and the financial gains are not as rewarding as one may think, but he has only a simple source of joy. "The positive result [of the foundation's efforts] is seen in the success of captive breeding," he says. "When we are able to breed [an eagle], we're very happy because the people know we're doing something."

Plight

However, since PEF is not getting any financial support from the government, voluntary contributions from private institutions and individuals remain its sole lifeblood. Donations dictate how far it can go as an environmental organization to pursue its objectives.

"Every year, we need to raise a certain amount of money," says Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director. "First, to sustain routine operations, and second, to expand and accelerate programs."

For nearly 15 years now, indeed, the foundation has relied on generous donors, who have the option to adopt an eagle or a nest through PEF's special programs, enroll as corporate/individual members/benefactors, or donate funds for infrastructure development. A good example, aside from AmEx, is the Japanese Embassy, which funded the P3.3-million Education Center for Biodiversity Conservation. The Education Center, unveiled early this year, is now being used as a library and venue for training, workshops, exhibits and conferences.

It is of great fortune—at the same time, irony—that foreign institutions as such are more adamant at addressing an issue that involves a priceless heritage.

"We do need more biologists into the program," says Salvador. "Unfortunately, because of the country's situation, nobody is going to conservation work. Filipinos would rather be doctors and nurses and earn more money. That's the fact of life here—there's no premium to become a scientist."

Apart from that, PEF is faced with another dilemma: lack of space at the Eagle Center. Acquiring new land, according to them, will help the Center accommodate future productions, develop buffer areas against future development in neighboring lots, and expand its exhibit area for visitors and better education services.

"But the prices of the land are exorbitant," Salvador laments. "It's hard to find people to get money from. And when you have bought the land you need, you have to set up the infrastructure."

What Pag-asa and the rest of the Philippine eagles would be 10 years from now, we have to take note, is in our hands. At least, that's one of the few things we have control of.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation may be reached at tel. (6382) 224-3021, fax (6382) 224-3022, e-mail phileagl@info.com.ph or website www.philippineagle.org

E-mail the author at ithink@deliveryman.com

PAG-ASA in flight spreads his 7-ft wings and wows clueless onlookers.

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⁺Terms and conditions apply.

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Dr. Ramon R. Apostol has been of service to the health needs of MEDICard members for more than two years now. He is our accredited medical service provider based in Manila Central University Hospital (MCUH) in Caloocan City. Dr. Apostol, who also goes by the nickname Doc Mon, has been in the practice of his profession for over 15 years now. He started his career in this field when he finished Medicine at the Manila Central University. He later chose to specialize in General Surgery, earning his residency training at the MCU Hospital also. Today, he takes pride of being a Fellow to the Philippine College of Surgeons, a Diplomate to the Philippine Board of Surgery and a Member to the Philippine Medical Association. Doc Mon likes to spend his free time enjoying his favorite hobby, fishing. For consultations, visit Dr. Apostol at Room 6, every Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 PM.

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GLOBAL RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT GROUP (CPK, Tequila Joe's, Buddies, Café All Day & Mati) signed last November 14 its healthcare program agreement with MEDICard at CPK - Glorietta. Present during the signing were (seated L-R) MANUEL ZUBIRI (Global Vice President), ARCHIE RODRIGUEZ (Global President), DR. NICANOR MONTOYA (MEDICard President), LUIS MONTOYA (MEDICard EVP & GM) and DR. NICKY MONTOYA (MEDICard Medical Director). Also present were (standing L-R) LIA GRACE ATIENZA (Global HR Manager), VOLTAIRE VICTORIA (MEDICard Marketing & Sales Manager) and ENRICO BUNYOG (MEDICard Marketing & Sales Supervisor)

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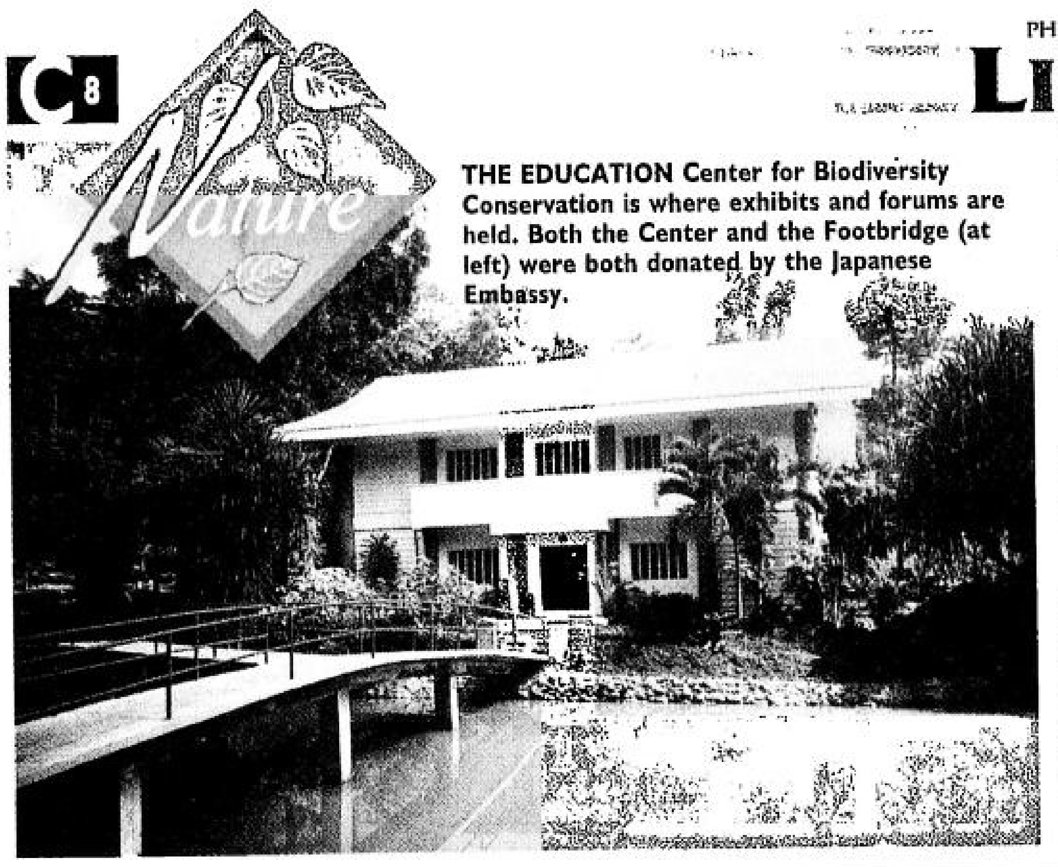


THE EDUCATION Center for Biodiversity Conservation is where exhibits and forums are held. Both the Center and the Footbridge (at left) were both donated by the Japanese Embassy.

Philippine eagle perches on edge of extinction

Text and photos by Alex C. Paita

TEN years after he was hatched through a special breeding program at the Philippine Eagle Center in Davao, Pag-asa perches on a limb of a majestic tree inside his cyclone-wire cage. He stands, valiantly, sometimes forming a crest out of the feathers on his head, probably claiming his worth to the title "king of the forest." To see him stretch his 7-ft wings and glide toward another branch is any onlooker's delight, but when he will do so, that is anybody's guess. From afar, the spectator can only remain a clueless witness to such magnificence, drop a jaw at every movement the eagle makes, and take pride in the thought that such a bird, considered one of the largest raptors in the world, can only be found in the Philippines. But only until one comes across the reality that roughly 300 of Pag-asa's kin are left can he or she say, "We cannot afford to lose them," and feel the urge to act.

WING KEEPER. Domingo Tadena, PEF director for \captive breeding

In that case, one can do what American Express (AmEx), the company that adopted Pag-asa in 1992, has been doing in the past 10 years. AmEx has, by far, been steadfast in supporting environmental concerns and coordinating with the Davao-based Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF), a nonprofit, nongovernment organization dedicated to saving the endangered Philippine Eagle and its rainforest habitat.

"Adopting an eagle is like adopting a child," says Ian Fish, AmEx country manager. "Once you start it, you cannot quit. You cannot just say, 'Sorry, we don't have budget for this year.'"

True enough, since Pag-asa's birth, AmEx has been giving financial support to its "child," and in November 2000, it donated $25,000 for PEF's conservation efforts. For this year, it has recently donated $10,000, in support of the foundation's conservation-education program.

EAGLE-EYED. Dennis Salvador, PEF executive director

The program covers developing awareness and understanding of the importance of Philippine eagles in urban and rural communities, such as preventing folks from shooting what they believe are just birds of prey. Which has become a growing concern as another Philippine eagle, named Amianan, was reportedly found with a gunshot wound and bruises in a forest clearing in Isabela province last Oct. 25. Luckily, it survived the wounds, and is now being treated and prepared for release back in the wild.

Flight

"Bringing awareness to people about the conservation of our environment is our ultimate goal," says Domingo Tadena, PEF director for captive breeding. "But why [focus on] the Philippine eagle, you ask? Because it is the flagship of conservation work."

Beyond being a national symbol, the Philippine eagle is watched as a key indicator of environmental health, he says. As a bird of prey, it occupies the top position of the forest ecosystem's food chain: its health reflects the health of animals and plants it preys on as well.

"A pair of Philippine eagles, according to research, occupies 130 sq km of forestland," adds Tadena. "Thus, saving a pair means saving 130 sq km of forest, and that includes all the wildlife within that area."

Fragmentation and degradation of lowland rainforests also count as pressing concerns. But the people at PEF have their hands full and are working overtime in countering these threats to environmental welfare.

Aside from conservation education, PEF is also involved in three other major programs: community-based initiatives, pegged on working with marginal-income families in the uplands and providing them with sustainable economic enterprises as livelihood alternatives; field research, focused on finding answers to biological questions concerning the eagles, as well as retrieving and rescuing wildlife captured by local folks; and conservation breeding or captive propagating, which complements all efforts in the field.

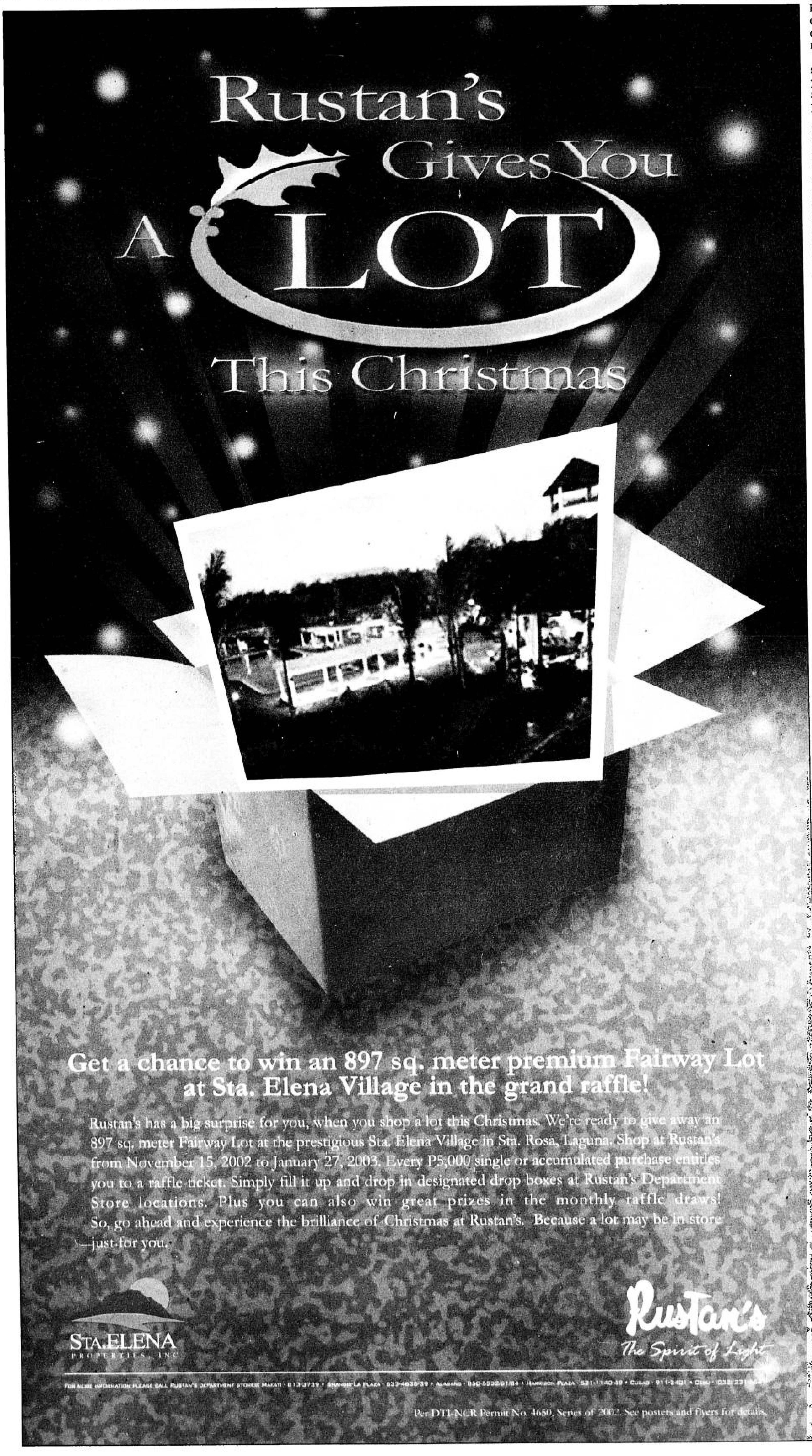
Breeding

PEF has since hatched nine eggs in captivity, including Pag-asa and Pagkakaisa, who are both results of artificial insemination; others through natural pairing, while the rest have been acquired through rescue operations. Two eggs are still in the incubating machine, and are set to hatch in December. At present, a total of 24 eagles are being nursed at the Eagle Center.

The 8-ha center also houses a wild boar,

PHILIPPINE/ p.C7

A GRAY-HEADED fishing eagle finds himself in the midst of Philippine eagles.



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